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PF R 301/V1

RANSOME, ARTHUR,
MITCHELL.

PF R 301/V1

KV2/1903

PF R 301/V1

PF R. 301

ARCHIVES

FILED
VOLUME 1.

R A N S O M E

ARTHUR MITCHELL

See Also

Officer or Serial No.	Section	Date	Officer or Serial No.	Section	Date	Officer or Serial No.	Section	Date
	PA	12 JUL 1968						
		22 AUG 1968						
MCM	PA	27 SEP 1968						
	PA	23 OCT 1968						
	KI	27 OCT 1968						
	RL	22 OCT 1968						
	PA	10 JUL 1969						
MJTB	P.I.C.	12 OCT 1969						
	PA	5 MAY 1970						
	LS	22 MAY 1973						
	PA	22 MAY 1973						
	PA	27 JUL 1973						
MFS	ez							
	P.A.							
	comms							
	P.A.							
	890							
	PA							
	R 82							

ARCHIVES

FILE CLOSED

PF

R. 301

VOLUME 1.

ARCHIVES

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PF R. 301

VOLUME 1.

m

2. Surname at Birth

3. Christian Name

Arthur Mitchell.

4. Style, Title, etc.

5. Alias or Trade Names

6. Date of Birth

Place of Birth

8. Nationality at Birth

British

9. Present Nationality

10. How and when acquired

11. Married: Single: Widower: Widow. (Date).....

12. Profession, Occupation, or Status

journalist

13. Passport or Papers of Identity
or Nationality
(No., Place and Date of Issue)

14. Government Services
(Naval, Military or Civil, in-
cluding munition work)

Country Served

Dates

Status or Rank

Arm or Branch of
Service

15. Educational and Technical
Training

16. Languages spoken

17. Countries travelled in

18. Arrivals in U.K. (Port and Date)

Departures from U.K. (Port and Date)

19. Persons giving references, or
supplying information

20. Remarks

50,000.11.17.

21. Photo



logra and Su.

see 14 A.

mes at Birth

23. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION:

- (a) Height ft.
- (b) Age by appearance as compared with actual Normal
Older
Younger
- (c) Build
- (d) Hair
- (e) Eyes
- (f) Complexion

(g) Distinctive Marks or Peculiarities

24. Private addresses

Owner, Tenant,
Lodger or
Employee

Date

25. Business Addresses

Name of Firm or
Employer

Nationality of
Employer

Date

26. Last I.P. No. dealt with

4 N.S.I.C. - B/01954. - 12.8.18 See E.I.

5 Km. 4.0. Tel. 2854. from Xianfa. See (2)
16.8.18.

3 D.I.D. (See 3)

4 Tose wire sent to Stockholm See (3A)
J.P.

5 minute to N.S.I.C. 29/8/18 See (4)

6 To see minute to N.S.I.C.

See mm. 29.8.18 S.C. (see)

8 from M.I.C. 29.18. See (5)

9 agreed to M.I.C. minute R.F. 14/9/18

10 To see N.S.I.C.'s minute of 2/9/18. S.C. (see)
7.9.18. 5.4.

From M. L. C. 4/02277. 2.9.18. Sa. (6)

~~See~~ These with M. I. I. C.

Little reference to your etc etc we have
no information about Baster Blyth beyond the
fact that in April of this year he was
correspondent of the "Chicago Daily News" in
Stockholm. He is also a member of
the Royal Geographical Society.

Minute to N. G. I. C. re Russell Dwyer, 28.9.46. See 9

h. J. G. C. 48. ¹³ 10/19/18. Lee 5A

A.J.C. B. 02573 29. 10. 18.

See (8)

ma. D. q. c. C/O. 2287. ~~21418~~. 21418.

See (9)

E Major Spencer.

Plan see p. 87. 1 km spoken by his husband

Who says that the author of P has recently
this report. P.R. Dr Farina 84 2/26/15.

E. he may be left alone, but his conduct should be reported. H.P.

5/11

El Sec

See Capt. Whitehead's draft.

gmc 7/11

To Mrs Shelden
Newcastle
8.11.15

(S.

Press Cutting. 29/10/18.

See 8A

19.

Mr. Ransome. 4.11.18

See 9A.

20.

M.I.C. B/02767. 9.12.18.

(14)

21.

E. L. L. Inform post.

H.S.
17/12

22.

To hls. Aberdeen's castle.

18/12/18

(15)

H.2 from H. Ransome

18 DEC 1918

23.

Sol.

15.10.18.

See 7a.

24.

Newspaper cutting re Ransome. See (13)

25.

(14)

M.I.C. Com.

25-11-18.

(14)

26.

Copy of Press Cutting. 14.12.18.

See (11a)

27.

Press Cutting. 15.1.19.

See (15)

28.

Letter to Major Randall. 16.1.19

See (16)

[P.T. OVER.]

M. 29

Circular.

11-1-19.

See (14A)

L. 30.

Dist letter 21.1.19.

See (14)

31.

(Rev) B.C.I.

16-1-19.

(16A)

32.

(Rev) To B.C.I.

23-1-19.

(18)

33.

Telegram to HCO Stockholm from F.O. 31/1/19.

(19)

34.

Telegram from H.C.O. Stockholm to F.O. 3/2/19.

(20)

35.

H.H.C. R/97 17-3-19

(21)

36.

How however the N. 3414-24/3/19.

(22)

A.T.P.

B.C.I. has interviewed Rasmus who is going down to the country to write a book. Rasmus has promised to show B.C.I. material intended for publication in the Press. B.C.I. does not mind that he will act as a propagandist of Bolshevism while in U.K.

30/3/19

Telegram for A

Informal A.T.P. 31/3. Wk.

SL

H.O. W.O. 56 31

28-3-19

(23)

38.
Circulated. 10.9.19.

(24)

pa
gme

39
Copy of int: tel: 20.3.19.

(21a)

40

Int: tel: re Ransome. 9.4.19.

(25)

41

Letter to C.I.D. 14.4.19.

(27)

42

From M.C.O. Christiania. 23.3.19.

(21b)

43

Copy of information from M.I.L.A. 8.3.19.

(20a)

43

Surv. letter slip 8.4.19.

(23B)

44.

Guaforee (23B.)

45.

M.I.L. 71921. 15.4.19.

(28.)

46.

C.I.D. 23.4.19.

(29.)

47.

G4A. Please see (28.)

[P.T. Over]

48
Information re Ransome 4.4.19.

49
From H.O. 2.4.19.

50
From H.I.I.a. 16.4.19.

51
From N.S.Y. 17.4.19.

52
M.I.Q.C. 7.4.19.

53
M.I.S. 9.4.19.

54
H.O. 69513/W. 88. 17.5.19.

55
H.O. 3.2.19.

56
M.I.Q. Int. letter. 1.4.19.

57
M.I.Q. Int. letter. 4.4.19.

58
M.I.Q. Int. letter. 19.3.19.

59
M.I.I.a. B.M. 69148. 20.3.19.

60
H.O. London District 11.4.19.

61
Int. letter. 31.5.19.

(2)

(23)

(24)

(28)

(23)

(30)

(31)

(20x)

(23ax)

(28ax)

(21x)

(21y)

(26a)

(32)

17 61

From F.O.

27.5.19.

(31a)

17 62

Copy of inter: letter mentioning Ransome.

2.8.19.

(33)

63.

B.P. spoke n (34) enclosed M.R.
who object to Ransome's going to Russia
R.F. 84 18/6

64

14.8.19. H.O. letter to H.M. about granting permission (34)

for Ransome to go to Russia.

65

16.8.19. Letter to H.O. saying that D.M.I. suggests refusal (35)

6616.5.19. Lett: letter to Ransome enclosing (36)
report on Folkestone daylight Politizer.6725.8.19. Original pamphlet "The Truth about (37)
Russia" by Ransome.6826.8.19. Letter from H.O. to D.M.I. pressing for Ransome (38)
to go to Russia. 6926.8.19. Letter to H.O. from D.M.I. allowing (39)
Ransome to go to Russia with restrictions.70

B.P. (H.M.?)
I hear from Capt. Matthews that Ransome
is on the point of leaving for Russia

[P.T. OVER]

having obtained permission.

The H.O. here who replied to (29) that being so, suggest there can be no objection to me informing M.I.R. that they should now take the action suggested in the last of (39)

R.F.

P4
9/1/4

71.

K.P. - If Ransome is to go to Russia as all, can we very well keep him out of all anti Bolshevick theatres of operation. If the decision to attempt to do so is final M.I.R. must take action without delay.

SK
9/4

72

I have phoned to the E. Frangis P.O. & advised him to take stand

10/9/4.

W.R.

I phoned the H.O. who informed me that Ransome has not yet applied here for a permit to go to Russia. As known he could go to Constantinople without reference to here I have asked Mr. Parker if the H.O. have any news of his having left H.K.

Mr. Parker says that the H.O. cannot trace anybody leaving H.K.

Sherry
15.9.

Sherry
22.9.

74.

Mr. Selwyn Jackson.

Should a reminder be sent for (39)?

J. H. S.
24.8.

75.

Q. Please see D.I.P.'s decision on (39); also min. 72.
I presume we should get an answer to (39) if Ransom's
date of departure were settled?

Mr. Selwyn Jackson
94
24. IX. 19

76.

Yes. 2 presume as the request
is definite.

J. H. S.
24/9

77.

Spoke Major Matthews. Ransom has not yet
left, but will report when he does.

P.T. S.
8/10/19

78.

P. report.

(40)

79.

14 Sec. Please find copy of (39) in B.M. to
M.R. with note "he has had no reply from
the H.Q. but has information that Ransom has
not left for Ransom. You may wish to take action
as proposed in last 8"

Mr. J. H. S. 13/10/19. [P.T. OVER.]

80

13-10-19 B.M. from h.i.R. 9068 asking by what route Ransome left for Russia. (42)

81

15-10-19 B.M. h.i.R. 9068 passed to h.i.R. by hand.

82

18-10-19 B.M. h.i.R. 9068 asking further particulars

83
Plan pub. copies of 34, 35, 36
B.M. passed out by hand plan

84
22/11/19

84

22.10.19 B.M. 9068 passed out to h.i.R. by hand with copies of 34, 35, & 36.

85

17.9.19. 2nd. Letter from Rinal to Keene stating (36a)
that the former hopes to get some of his work published by Ransome's help.

86

C2 Tel. 81948. 26.10.19. Duplicate of information in. (43)

87

29.10.19. C2 Tel. 91169. re journey of Ransome to Russia on 27.10.19. (45)

88

12.11.19 h.i.R. B.M. 9068 saying Ransome should be given visa to U.K. should he apply. (46)

89

~~Mr Jackson~~

If it is agreed to let the lady in I think the reply to the F.O. should be framed so as to suggest that there are no personal objections to her coming to U.K. - in view of Mrs. R.'s letter SA in B.M.

W 94 11/11/19

Mr Farina - Draft letter to F.O. attached. Would you minute B.M. to M.R. when this goes.

W Delany Jackson

94

18. XI. 19

90

F.I. Please see min. 89. Will you write F.O. and return B.M. to M.R., please. The idea is that we have no personal objection to put forward in this woman's case in view of M.R.'s statement. Ransom's case is another matter, please.

W Delany Jackson

94
19. XI. 19

91

Letter to Foreign Office dated

11.19.

(47)

F. (Colonel)

92.

~~Major Phillips~~

Letter for initials please, if approved.
(also minute in B.M.).

24.11.19.

93

F.I.

Do you think D.M.1 should see F.O. letter (46)

WAP

[P.T. OVER]

D.1

See attached B.M. minute 9.

I do not know if Dart was personally interested in Ransome's return to U.S.
It seems that D.O. has arranged that he will be allowed to return, and that there is nothing more for us to do - we need to trouble Dart unless he is interested.

H.W.
25/11/19.

95.

Major Phillips.

Letter and minute in B.M. despatched,
? now p.a.

26.11.19.

RCH

96.

5.11.19. F.O. 147137/W.35.

Ransome leaving for Peral.

28.11.19

F.O. Tel. Re arrival of Ransome in
Helsingfors.

9.12.19.

M.I.1a thro' M.I.3d. Copy of
telegram re Ransome's arrival in
Helsingfors.

Photo of Ransome.

30.1.20. Int. letter in which book by Ransome to be
published in Germany is mentioned.

11/15

In. are you do in
not receive a copy.

I am forwarding
a copy to the
perhaps you will
like to transcribe
to Home Office

2.5 Skans
- 100

11/15

10/4/17

11/15

PA

4-374
11.4.17

4/15

There was
William Ransom

several times in
Pchograd.

He struck me as
being somewhat
foolish & irresponsible

MWB

10/8/17

11/15

Please pa.

11/15

EXTRACT.

Relating to Ransome A.M.

Extracted from file Prie - Phillip No. P.P. 101
 Author of original M. I. G. C. Place and date of origin 15. 8. 17.
 Extract made by Eug on (date) 20/12/17
 Cop. sent to _____

Letter From
M. Philips Price.
Petrograd.

To
Miss Philips.
The Park
Prestwick (Manchester.)

Extracts from letter.

" The Daily News Man; Arthur RANSOME is here is very
 good. He will send all the material we can in
 support of C.W.S.D.

H52.

I.P. No

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME Mr Arthur

Extracted from file S.F. 401/3/2 (32) No.
 Author of original H.I.L.A. Place and date of origin 15/10/18
 Extract made by H.M.T. on (date) 3/1/19
 Copies sent to

B.M. 55134 re Exchange of British and Russian officials.
 Passed to H.I.7. 18/10/18.

Legation Royale des Pays Bas
 Petrograd.

September 18, 1918.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that I received on September 13th the following message from the Netherlands Government:-
 "Since Chicherin has publicly announced his willingness to release all British diplomats if Litvinov and all Russians receive a safe conduct, the British Government supposes that Chicherin will be prepared to set at liberty all British subjects official and private, including all naval and military officers, immediately after the release of Litvinov and other Bolsheviks now under arrest in England.* * *
 In this connection I think it my duty to report to you that Captain Hicks of the British Mission, who is at present staying in the ex-American Consulate at Moscow, has brought to my notice the fact that there are two Englishmen whose conduct ought to be brought to the notice of the British Government, as they are exerting a not inconsiderable influence on the situation in Russia by persuading the Bolsheviks that they may count on a large measure of support from the working classes in England. The first is Mr Arthur RANSOME, who is the correspondent of the London "Daily News". He has been in close and friendly relations with the Soviet Leaders throughout, but, in the month of June last, promised Mr Lockhart that if he would recommend the British Government to grant him a passport and obtain for him permission for him to live in Stockholm, he would occupy himself with the collecting of information concerning the revolution only, and would entirely cease his propaganda work.

I.P., 20,000.I.18/10,000.17.V.18/10,000.22.VII.18/10,000.10.X.18.

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME Mr Arthur 301

Extracted from file _____ No. _____
Author of original _____ Place and date of origin _____
Extract made by _____ on (date) _____
Copies sent to _____

-2-

The passport was obtained entirely on Mr Lockhart's recommendation. The first doubts were raised when Mr RANSOME left Moscow without saying a word to the Members of the Mission, and when he already knew that their position was extremely dangerous. He had already told the Mission that there was a party in the Soviet, headed by Radek, which wished to go to extreme lengths with the Mission on account of the British landing at Archangel. This was followed almost immediately by the first arrest of members of the Mission, and RANSOME left while the fate of those arrested was still undecided. His influence with the Soviets was considerable, and it appears to Mr Lockhart and Captain Hicks, that, if he was too indifferent to exercise it on behalf of British subjects, he does not deserve the protection of British nationality. The Mission is further informed that he is, in spite of his definite promises, continuing his propaganda work from Stockholm.

I have etc.
(signed) W.J. Oudendyk.

Her Netherland Majesty's Minister.

Tel. No. VICTORIA 2770. Ex. 112.
Reply should be addressed to H.M.
Inspector under the Aliens Act,
H.M. Office, London, S.W. 7, and
the following reference quoted :-

HOME OF-

2nd April, 1919.

To the Aliens Officer.

Circular W.O.5631 dated
3/2/19 should be regarded as
cancelled as far as it concerns
Arthur Michen RANSOME.

W. HALDANE PORTER.
H.M. Inspector under the Aliens
Act.

Copies sent to Aliens Officers at "Approved Ports," Aberdeen, Plymouth,
four Permit Offices, Bureau de Controle, New Scotland Yard, and War
Office (M.A. 5 (c)).

Allocation 1.

39/9/18

Letter described below submitted to N.I.5.g.1.

by D.C.C. (Postal) on 3.8.17.

No. W.S.A. P/P.350.

From

Mr and Mrs Ransome,

116, Harrogate Road,

Chapel Allerton,

Leeds.

To

Mrs Ransome, Wt.

116, Harrogate Road,

Chapel Allerton,

Leeds.

Original sent on.

COMMENT.

Writer is, or was, correspondent of the 'Observer'. Previous letters suggest that he is pessimistic by nature, and made more pessimistic by ill-health.

Extract:

"Yesterday I had a tremendous talk with members of the executive committee... It began with a combined attack on England by both moderates and extremists, at first concentrated on Ireland. I dished them all right over that. Then, admitting defeat over that, they proceeded to put their own case. I am giving you the most hopeful view taken by the most hopeful members of the most moderate party. They realised clearly what separate peace would mean in German domination of Russia, and, further in German use of Russia against us (these particular men were very pro-English) and they said 'If we can keep things going until the meeting of the Constituent Assembly (October), and if, when the assembly meets peace negotiations have not begun a separate peace will be inevitable. No power on earth will keep the Russian army in the trenches this winter.' They further said 'If England cares twopence for Russia, if England does not want to see the whole of Europe and the whole of Central Asia up to Afghanistan and the Indian borders under the moral dominion of Germany, she will conclude peace this year or the lines of Wilson's note.' The horrible thing is that these were not irresponsible people, nor convinced pacifists. They were the people who have been backing Kerensky in his effort to get the army into going order again, the people who have been fighting German influence here for all they were worth. Their view is that Germany is beaten now, in that she has failed, but that next year, even if we have victories of a big character in the west, she will none the less be in a stronger position, and that with succeeding years, when Russia is on her feet again being taught to walk by Germans, Germany will every year be stronger.

Can you wonder that I am pretty well worried.

I've met a charming Canadian on his way through to Vladivostok, a geologist, Major Bell, who knows Mr. Perkin. He knows Russian, and takes precisely the same view as I do

[1991] W11333A/633 20m 12/16r G1&S

P.T.G.

of the situation. I don't think it's possible for anybody who knows the truth to take any other view. Even men just out of England who start with opposite prejudices, are one after other convinced in the face of the only too obvious facts.

They start with the idea that "we must count Russia out." The next stage is reached when they realise that Russia cannot be counted out, except by people incapable of looking ahead. You cannot count out the influence of 180 million people."

Copies to M.I.9.a.
M.I.7.d.
M.I.1.c.
D.of I.

W.V.W.

A.C.M.C.
M.I.9.c P/P.
4859. 1038.
3.8.17.

COPY

Form E. (Permits).

No. 25388

REFERRED TO:—

ENQUIRY.

The enquiry below relates to an application for a permit to leave the United Kingdom. It is requested that enquiries may be made regarding the character and reputation of the persons and firm mentioned, and the form returned to this office with a reply within 24 hours, if possible, as the matter is urgent.

Permit Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W. 1.

Date 26. 10. 15. Table No.

Surname RANSOME née

Christian Names Arthur Mitchell

Address Hatch Tisbury, Wilts.

Age 31 Sex M Height 5'11½" Nationality British

Occupation Author

Destination and Object of Journey Petrograd for literary work.

References (1) Rt. Hon. F.D. Acland, M.P. Board of Agriculture.

(2)

Remarks:—

Applicant was in Russia from Dec. 1914 till 21.9.15. when he came back to England. He now wishes to return to Russia.

REPLY.

Nothing known by M.O.5.
(Sgd) A.C. 27.10.15.

2nd Application.

Referred for Enquiry 28.11.15. to M.I.5. and S.Y.
Returned from Russia 3.10.16. on newspaper work.— He is correspondent in Russia for "Daily News" and for a holiday. Now returns to Russia. Has certificate from Sir George Buchanan that he has worked for the Embassy for 3 years.

Nothing fresh known by M.I.5.
(Sgd) E.D. 29.11.16.

COPY

2391

Form R (Permits).

NO. 25388

REFERRED TO:—

M.I.5.

M.I.7.A.

ENQUIRY.

The enquiry below relates to an application for a permit to leave the United Kingdom. It is requested that enquiries may be made regarding the character and reputation of the persons and firm mentioned, and the form returned to this office with a reply within 24 hours, if possible, as the matter is urgent.

Permit Office,

Downing Street,

London, S.W. 1.

Date Referred for Information 4.12.17.

Table No. 10. L.H.D.

Surname RANSOME

Christian Names Arthur Mitchell

Address Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place.

Age 33 Sex M Height 5'11½" Nationality British

Occupation Correspondent of Daily News, The Observer, and an American paper.

Destination and Object of Journey Russia, returning to his post, after coming to U.K. 17.10.17. to make arrangements with his papers for

References (1) telegraphic communication via the East, when Petrograd
(2) is taken by the Germans, which he anticipates will take

Remarks:— place next Spring.

REPLY.

Produced certificate from Sir George Buchanan saying that he had been working for British Embassy, and that he would be returning to the work after short leave. Permit has been granted, as telephoned to you this morning, and he leaves by next Admiralty boat.

Grant noted.

(Sgd) E.D. 7.12.17.

39/9.15.

M.I. 5 (E²) I.P. No. 239119**THIS PAPER IS CONFIDENTIAL AND MUST NOT LEAVE THE SECTION,
AND MUST BE PASSED OUT FOR INDEXING IMMEDIATELY AFTER ACTION.**

Sender's Date 4.12.17	From P.O.	
Date of Receipt 7.12.17	Subjects Appe: for Permit.	Names RANSOME, Arthur Mitchell
Sender's Reference No. 25388.		
Enclosure	Places	Special Instructions regarding Transit Please no. & Return.

Former Papers	Referred and Date E ² 17 DEC 1917	Minutes Major Spencer. This is interesting as the H.O.P.O. report that Ransome was extremely well informed. E ² How does he propose to go to Russia, as my diplomatic views are rather opposed. E ² I see thanks. can you answer above? 12 DEC 1917 He'll probably tip the scales on duty - a few roubles. H.O.P.O. say that he may carry a 70. bag. H.S. 15/12												
Papers already out	ST 1912 E ² E ² E.													
16 Date of first Transit to Branch E ²														
17 Passed to Branch Officer Date 14/12	Initial													
18 Formal Acknowledgment, Letter, Minute, sent														
19 Enclosures sent H.O.P.O. 7/12 K.S.														
20 Filed in P.O. 17 DEC 1917														
21 Retracted Copies, filed in P.F.R. 301 Ransome 20.8.12 H.C. H.														
22 Noted on Transit Card														
23 Indexed:—Names Subjects Places														
24 Special Instructions regarding Action and indexing														
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Instructions for circulation to be dated and initialled:—														
Nature of circular	Initial													
E. United Kingdom only														
E. U. K. and France														
E. General														
H. For B.C.I. not for Circulation														

45833

FILES ONLY

Decypher. Mr. Lockhart (Moscow). 21st June 1918.

D. 7.20 p.m. 21st June 1918.
F. 8 a.m. 29th

No. 301.

My telegram 205.

In case you have not received this I repeat it shortly as situation is extremely urgent. A very useful lady who has worked here in extremely confidential position in a Government Office, desires to give up her present position. She has been of the greatest service to me and is anxious to establish herself in Stockholm where she would be centre of information regarding under-ground agitation in Russia in the event of Bolsheviks being over (?thrown omitted) by the Germans. Not only have her services to Allies been considerable but it would be highly important for us to have inside information of future movement. Lady is not Bolshevik, but is known to all leaders of the movement. In any case she promises to take no part in political agitation work. In order to enable her to leave secretly I wish to have authority to put her to Mr. Ransome's passport as his wife and facilitate her departure via Murmansk. Please give me a reply.

(29.6. 8-4)

not hand

H.

294084

45833

*Immediate
and
Confidential.*

URGENT.

(W/38/114922/1918.)

Reference :—Letter ^{to} ~~from~~ Foreign Office.

*The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Director of Military Intelligence,
and is directed by the Secretary of State to transmit the
accompanying copies of a telegram, as marked in the*

*Mr. Lockhart
margin, for the observations of General
No. 301. June 21
Sir G. Macdonogh.*

Foreign Office.

July 2. , 1918.

Similar letter sent to:—

15 d]

Date 3/7/18
From M.I. (1.) A No. 45833
To M13 294084
Please ~~Keep~~ Return
*For action. Will you contact
M12 D1 if necessary.
M11C*
C. Goughland
5822. W.L.V1717/H.P.606. 10.000. 11-17. W.P.&Co., Ltd. K17/879

294084/M.I.S.E

7 JULY 1918

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to his letter No. W/38/114922/1918 dated July 2nd and enclosure from Mr Lockhart, Moscow, respecting the desire of a certain lady to proceed to Stockholm under the name of Mrs Ransome, begs to acquaint him for the information of Mr Secretary Balfour that there is no military objection to this arrangement being made.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

294084/M.I.5.E.

8th July, 1918.

My dear

With reference to F.O. telegram No.301 of 21/6/18 from Moscow concerning the useful lady whom they wish to send to Stockholm and who will go as Ransome's official wife. We have informed F.O. that there is no military objection.

However for your information I am informed very reliably that Ransome had applauded the Bolsheviks to such an extent in his newspaper writing that one is almost forced to the conclusion that he is a Bolshevik himself.

It would probably be worth while to keep an eye on the lady and see what her activities really are.

Yours sincerely,

H.R.S.

M.I.1.C.

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958.

M.I. 5 (E) I.P. No. 294084**CONFIDENTIAL: NOT TO LEAVE M.I.5.
OUT FOR INDEXING IMMEDIATELY AFTER ACTION.**

Date of Receipt	from	M.I. 1. A.	
Sender's Date	Sender's Reference No.	Enclosures	
3.7.10	45833		
Subjects	Names	Places	
request that a certain body of allied sympathizers may proceed to - in name of -	RANSOME, Mrs	Stockholm	
Referred and Date	Former Papers	Minutes	
G 4/1		<p>(Capt. Bray)</p> <p>As far as we & "C" are concerned there is no objection, but will you say if you have any or N.I. 2.</p> <p>H.I.P. 4.7.10</p> <p>I gather that the Ransome referred to is Arthur Ransome correspondent in Russia to the Daily News. His articles have been, I consider, most admirable as he has frequently applauded the Bolschevik government & one was forced to the conclusion that he had become a Bolschevik himself.</p> <p>I have met him personally & disliked him.</p> <p>I can hardly believe that Ransome's "official wife" is going to do useful work in Stockholm as anti-Bolschevik. It is a long journey & she might be corrupted on the way.</p> <p>of M.I. 1. Bray</p> <p>May Courtney</p> <p>Please answer no military objection.</p> <p>then give "C" the above mission</p>	
10	Date of first Transit to	Branch	
	E		
11	Passed to Branch Officer	Date	Initial
	P.	4/7	
12	Formal Acknowledgment, Letter, Minute, etc.	7/7	
13	165 F.6		
14	Enclosures sent	M.I. 1. A. 8/7.	
15	P.A. 8/7/15 WMS		
16	Filed in P.F.R. 301 Ransome 20.8.18 H.A.M.		
17	Extracts, Copies, filed in		
18	Indexed: - Names Subjects Places		
19	Special Instructions regarding Action and indexing		

2-14-18

Major Spencer

Should a wire be sent
to I.R.I.C. for reasons to
grant all facilities

for C78

6
7

My dear Kendall

with ref to F.O.

Telegram No 301 of 21.6.18

from Moscow concerning

the useful lady whom

they wish to send to

Stockholm where we

go as Transome's

official wife. We

have informed F.O. that

there is no military

objection.

However for your
information, I am ^{informed} very
reliably that Transome
has applauded the Bolsheviks
to such an extent in his
handwritten writing that
one is almost forced to
the conclusion that he
is a Bolshevik himself.
It would probably be
wise while to keep an
eye on the lady & see
what her activities
really are.

7.7.18

Sydney

Yours
H.T.S.

RECEIVED
BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECORDED & INDEXED
JUL 10 1918

294692

SECRET.

4th July, 1918.

B/01611.

M.I.5.E.4. (Major Spencer)

Mr. Ransome's (political) wife,
who is coming over with him from Moscow via
Murmansk.

Will you kindly let us have her address
when she arrives - and the name under which she
is passing.

Major.

M.I.1.C.

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3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. JUNE 2004

294692/M.I.5.R.

14th July, 1918

M.C.O.. Aberdeen.
M.C.O.. Newcastle.

Mr Arthur Ransome will be arriving from Russia shortly.

For political reasons he may bring a lady with him.
She will, with the approval of the authorities, be passing
as his wife.

His arrival and address should be reported, and if the
lady is with him, her address and the name she is using
should also be reported

JNR 15/7

B/01954.

SECRET.

12th August, 1918.

M.I.S.E. (Major Spencer)

For your information.

The following has been received from

Stockholm:-

"STOCKHOLM, 8-8-18.

CXSG. 103. Thursday.

"(?) RANSOME British Press correspondent
who has been with Trotsky last few months arrived here
as Bolshevik courier yesterday. Please telegraph me
what is his real position from F.O. point of view."

(Note:- ? Name rather doubtful, wrongly encoded.)

Major.

M.I.L.C.

F.F.s

H.S.P.
16-5-18

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. JUNE 2004

MA 188

x.Mc D.

COPY of TELEGRAM received from Censor at C.T.O.
Censor's No. 119.

W.O. No. 01589.

in GOLDERS GREEN.

Date handed in } 19.8.18.

To Mrs. Ransome Hatch Tisbury Wilts.

From Litvinoff.

Time handed in } 11.10.a.m.

Co's. No. G.7226.

Text:

Impossible fix date departure probably end
week.

yl

please p.a.

20.8.18. S.C.

La. Litvinoff

Forwarded to	Copies sent to	Action taken at Cable Office	Action taken at War Office	Initials and Date
<i>lit 18</i>	<i>70</i>	P.		19.8.18.

(0778) WAR/PT94: 340,000 678 T. & W. A. J. M. Ltd. (L2196) 016003

I.P. Item 2c.

I.P. No. E 4.

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME

Extracted from file LITVINOFF. No. 844758.

Author of original Ivy Ransome. Place and date of origin 20-8-18

Extract made by M.F. on (date) 17-9-18

Copies sent to

COPY OF TELERAM, received from Censor at G.T.O.
Censor's No. 119. W.O.No01387

Origin. Lisbury.

To Litvinoff, 11, Bigwood Road, Hampstead Gardens Suburb

From. Ivy Ransome.

Co's No. G. 7227.

Text.

(Government.)

Stricken down by influenza, profoundly regret, unable to keep appointment do please tell me if I should be in time to see you before your departure if I come later in the week as soon as able to travel much distressed at taking up your time and giving you trouble.

Forwarded to	Copies sent to	Action taken at	Date.
M.I.5.G.3.C,	A.	Cable Office	20 8 18
	F.O.		
	D.W.	P.	
	2.D.		

I.P., 20,000,1.18. 10,000,17.V.18.

EXTRACT.

I.P. No.

52

Relating to RANSOME Arthur

Extracted from file RIGHT THE No. 28
P.F. 37400. Vol. 2. FAMINE COUNCIL.
Author of original Place and date of origin 30-1-20
Censor. Extract made by on (date) 10-1-20
D.C. Copies sent to

Letter from [Frau von Zur Mühlen.]
Todtmoos im Schwarzwald
Hotel Loewen.
Germany.

from [George ALLEN & UNWIN Ltd.]
40. Museum. Street. W.C. 1.

Referring to her communication to [Mr. Douglas Galding], and
to Mr. Arthur RANSOME'S book, which it is just proposed to
publish in Germany. Writers reduce their offer of terms on
which they will agree to the publication.

(sgd) P.P.
30-1-20.

20,000.I.18/10,000.17.V.18/10,000.22.VII.18/10,000.16.X.18/10,000.15.I.19/10,000.25.IV 19.

H2
19/2/20
Tmw
16.2.20

EXTRACT.

Relating to Ransome Arthur

Extracted from file B.M. No. 90679
Author of original M.I.L.a. thro' MI3D Place and date of origin 8.12.19.
Extract made by M.V.E. on (date) 12.12.19.
Copies sent to M.I.L.a., M.I.R.a., M.I.S.D., M.I.5., M.I.6.

Helsingfors.

25th Nov. 1919.

No. 687/ (R)

My telegram No. 678.

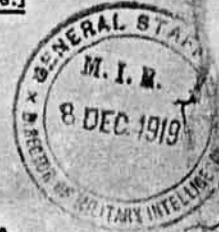
Mr. Ransome arrived here today and will proceed
to Stockholm November 27th.

Repeated to Stockholm.



[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be returned to the Foreign Office if not required for official use.]

(L9)



FILES ONLY

Decypher. Lord Acton (Helsingfors) November 28th, 1919.

D. 2.50 p.m. November 28th, 1919.

E. 12.30 p.m. November 29th, 1919.

No. 695 (R).

.....

Sir C. Kennard's telegram No. 687. *X milled*

Under title "A Communist Proselyt in Helsingfors" Hufvudstadsbladet notices arrival of Mr. Ransome Helsingfors. Mr. Ransome is represented as man who paints Soviet Russia as a paradise on earth.

I understand Mr. Ransome now expresses intention of undertaking journey over Russia to Orenburg and Tashkend.

C.2. Copies to:-

D.M.I. D.D.M.I.
M.I.L.C.
M.I.R. & A.
M.I.6B.
C.8.

R BM

X No. 687

NT. 83

(23.11 8/4).

11. 12. 19
hughes

I.P. Form H22.

EXTRACT.

I.P. No.

(18)

Relating to RANSOME

Extracted from file HERALD LEAGUE No.P.P. 4948

Author of original F.O. 147137/W38 Place and date of origin 5/11/19

Extract made by H.C. on (date) 5/12/19

Copies sent to

COPY
(146719)

EXTRACT.

THE "DAILY HERALD" AND RUSSIA.

The following is a text of a message from Moscow,
of October 26th :-

To Barry, "Daily Herald" correspondent, Reval.

Military authorities near Esthonian front duly in-
structed to allow you free passage. Would however advise
you to wait for RANSOME, who is leaving for Reval to-morrow.

(Signed) Litvinoff.

20,000. I. 18/10,000. 12. V. 18/10,000. 22. VII. 18/10,000. 16. X. 18/10,000. 18. I. 10/10,000. 25. IV. 19.

Carded
1/12/19
JmW
5-12-19

P.F.R.301/M.I.5.

25th November, 1919.

The Director of Military Intelligence presents
his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs and begs to acknowledge the receipt of
his letter No. 146808 dated the 8th November 1919 respecting
the Journey to the United Kingdom of Mr. Arthur RANCOME
and [R. 2117 Shelepina
Miss Eugenia SCHIELEPINA,] the contents of which have
been noted.

The Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,

Foreign Office,

G.W.I.

B.M. M.I.R. 9068.

46

M.I.S.

Please see 6A which has not been shown to D.M.I. I do not see that there is any action to be taken on it, but as it seems to affect you primarily, perhaps you will take any that you may consider suitable.

(sd) E. Skuife.

Lt.Col.G.S.

12.11.19.

M.I.R.

—
See copies attached.
—

M.I.R.

Seen thank you. Please see 8A which seems to meet the case.

Ed. I. Holt-Wilson Lt.Col. G.S.

M.I.S.F.
25. 11.19.

Copy in R. 2147. Shelepin.

(146808/)

Urgent. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Director of Military Intelligence and with reference to Major-General Sir W. Thwaites' memorandum M.I.R. No. 9068 of the 28th ultimo begs leave to inform him that Mr. Arthur Ransome arrived at Reval on the 5th instant.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst does not consider it advisable that any obstacles should be placed in the way of Mr. Ransome should he wish to proceed to the United Kingdom, in view of the circumstances in which he was granted permission to proceed to Russia. As regards ^{6.11.1919} [Mrs. Eugenia Schalepina] Lord Hardinge would observe that it was originally agreed that she should be granted facilities to come to the United Kingdom should she wish to do so and in this connection begs leave to enclose a copy of a letter received from the Home Office dated the 11th ultimo.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

November 8th, 1919.

copy
(140285)

46
89318

391027.

11th October, 1919.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Shortt to refer to your note of the 12th ultimo covering a copy of a letter to the Director of Criminal Intelligence regarding the desire of Eugenia Schelepina to come to the United Kingdom and to say that he agrees with the opinion expressed therein by Sir R. Graham that no useful purpose would be served by giving Mr. Ransome any document to show that permission would be granted to this lady to come to this country, but that the British Consul at Helsingfors has been informed that there is no objection to the grant of a visa to [Eugenia Schelepina] if she applies to him to travel to the United Kingdom.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

EXTRACT.

I.P. No.

(42)

Relating to Arthur Ransome

Extracted from file B.M. No. 9068
Author of original M.I.R. Place and date of origin 13.10.19.
Extract made by M.V-E. on (date) 15. 10.19.
Copies sent to _____

Minute 2. Previous Minute see (41)

M.I.5.G.4.

By what route and to what destination has Ransome gone and when did he leave please ?.

(Signed) E.O.Skaife,
Lieut. Col.M.I.R.
13.10.19.

-3-

M.I.R.

We have no exact information - he is believed to be in Riga and left about the 1st October.

(Signed) R. Farina.

M.I. 5. G.4.
15. 10.19.

(Sent by hand)

(CR)

EXTRACT.

I.P. No.

Relating to Arthur RANSOME.

Extracted from	file <u>B.M.</u>	No. <u>8068</u>
Author of original	<u>M.I.R.</u>	Place and date of origin <u>18.10.19.</u>
Extract made by	<u>M.V.E.</u>	on (date) <u>22.10.19.</u>
Copies sent to	<u>M.I.R.</u>	

For previous Minutes see (42).

-4-

M.I.5.

D.M.I. wishes you to speak on the subject of Ransome's visit to Russia please.

(Signed) E.O. Skaife,
Lt.-Col.M.I.R.
18.10.19

-5-

M.I.R.D.M.I. wishes British Military Missions only to be informed by wire.

"The following for your information and whatever action, if any, you may consider necessary :- Arthur Ransome at one time in touch with the Bolsheviks is now in Russia as Correspondent of the Manchester Guardian. The Foreign Office was however consulted before his departure from England".

Former correspondence attached.

(Signed) R. Farina.
for Col. G.S.M.I.5.G.4.
22.10.19.

m 15
30.10.17.

SECRET.

PARAPHRASE.

From :- War Office.

To :- British Mission, Helsingfors, repeated British Mission, Narva, British Mission, Reval, British Mission, Riga.

Despatched 1850 28th October, 1919.

81948 cipher M.I.R.

The following for your information and whatever action, if any, you may consider necessary.

Arthur Ransome, is now in Russia as correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, he was at one time in touch with Bolshevicks. The Foreign Office had no objection to Ransome going to Russia. He is, however, there in no official capacity.

Addressed British Mission, Reval, repeated British Mission, Narva, Reval and Riga.

C.2. Copies to :- M.I.R. Ra.
M.I.6.
M.I.1.c.

30.10.17. 64

DSI

M1545

C L E A R.

From: British Mission, Narva.

To: War Office.

29.10.19.

E.G./1/1 29th October.

Following intercepted from today's Bolshovik wireless. Begins. To Daily Herald correspondent Reval from Moscow. N.252 dated 26th October. Military authorities near Esthonian front line duly instructed allow Von free passage would however advise wait for Ransom who is leaving for Reval 27th. Signed [Intvianoff.] Ends. Probably another [Professor Good.] Please inform Esthonian Staff. Addressed Reval repeated Helsingfors and London.

C.2. Copies to: S. of S.

Soc.
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.
M.C.5.5b.
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.
M.I.1.c.
M.I.R.RA.
M.I.5.D.5.
Ad. (D.N.I.).
Lord Curzon.
F.O. (Mr. Gregory).

31. 10. 19
Copy in P.P. P.P. 44 & 45 vol 8 Herald League
huff.

(41)

P.F.R.301/M.I.5.G.4.

M.I.R.

{ see (sup)
for 1A

We have had no reply from the Home Office with reference to the attached, but as Ransome has now gone to Russia, you may wish to take action as proposed in the last paragraph, of 1A.

(Sd) R.F.

for Col. 82

R/WVB.

M.I.5.G.4.
13. 10. 19.

10th October, 1919.

P.F. R.301.

R A N S O M E.

I have made discreet enquiries with regard to the above and ascertained that he left 82, High Street, Hampstead on the 1st October, 1919, with the intention of visiting Russia.

P.

J.B.J.

R.301/M.I.5.

(39)

26th August, 1919.

Dear Sir Ernley Blackwell,

In reply to your letter of 26th August regarding Mr. Arthur Ransome I am afraid, from the military point of view, I have nothing to add to my previous letter to Sir Edward Troup.

If, however, it is decided to allow this gentleman to go to Russia, it should be distinctly on the condition that he will not be allowed to enter any British or Anti-Bolshevik theatre of operations there.

I would be glad to be informed of the proposed date of departure of Mr. Ransome in order that I may send telegrams to our several G.O.Cs. and the Russian Generals concerned, warning them that Mr. Arthur Ransome is not to be permitted to enter any of their zones.

Yours sincerely,

Wm Thwaites

Sir Ernley Blackwell,

Home Office.

3/9/19

39/19

26th August, 1919.

Dear General Thwaites,

With reference to Sir E. Troup's letter of 14th August and your reply as to letting Mr Arthur Ransome go to Russia as correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian", I have now heard from Sir R. Graham that Lord Curzon thinks there is no objection to permission being granted so long as the conditions upon which it is given are quite explicitly explained to Mr Scott, the Editor of the "Manchester Guardian". Mr Scott has already given Sir Basil Thomson an undertaking not to insert anything from Mr Ransome which would be detrimental to our interests and Sir Basil thinks that in these circumstances there is no harm in letting Ransome go. Mr Shortt thinks that Ransome will do less mischief in Russia under these conditions than he is likely to do if left to his own devices in this country and in view of the Foreign Office opinion he is inclined to grant permission, but before deciding he would be glad to have any further observations on the subject which you may wish to offer.

Yours truly,

E. Blackwell

Major-General W. Thwaites, C.B.

8. 3/1/19

16th August 1919.

Dear Sir Edward,

Kell has shown me your letter regarding the question of letting Mr. Arthur Ransome go to Russia as correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

I am of opinion that at this juncture it would be most undesirable for a British Subject holding such views as Ransome does to go to Russia.

I should say he would do less harm in this country.

Yours very truly,

(Sd) Wm. Thwaites

Br. Gen

Sir Edward Troup, K.C.B.
Home Office

Pamphlet
"The Truth about Russia."

A. Ransome

37

2
Distributed at the
"Hands Off Russia" meeting -

(1)

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA

By
ARTHUR RANSOME
Distributed at the first "Hands Off Russia"
meeting - sug



PRICE FOURPENCE

Published by
THE WORKERS' SOCIALIST FEDERATION
400, OLD FORD ROAD, E 3.

PREFACE

*Every day brings a ship,
Every ship brings a word;
Well for those who have no fear,
Looking seaward well assured
That the word the vessel brings
Is the word they wish to hear.*

EMERSON wrote the poem I have stolen for a headpiece to this letter, and Emerson wrote the best commentary on that poem: "If there is any period one would desire to be born in—is it not the age of Revolution; when the old and the new stand side by side, and admit of being compared; when the energies of all men are searched by fear and by hope; when the historic glories of the old can be compensated by the rich possibilities of the new era? This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it." Revolution divides men by character far more sharply than they are divided by war. Those whom the Gods love take the youth of their hearts and throw themselves gladly on that side, even if, clear sighted, they perceive that the fires of revolution will burn up perhaps the very things that, for themselves, they hold most dear. Those others, wise, circumspect, foolish with the folly of wisdom, refrain, and are burned up none the less. It is the same with nations, and I send this pamphlet to America because America supported the French Revolution when England condemned it, and because now also America seems to me to look towards Russia with better will to understand, with less suspicion, without the easy cynicism that prepares the disaster at which it is afterwards ready to smile. Not that I think all this is due to some special virtue in America. I have no doubt it is due to geographical and economic conditions. America is further from this bloody cockpit of Europe, for one thing. For another, even rich Americans dependent for their full pockets on the continuance of the present capitalist system, can wholeheartedly admire the story of the Bolshevik adventure, and even wish for success, without fearing any serious damage to the edifice in which they live. Or it may be, that, knowing so little about America, I let myself think too well of it. Perhaps there too men go about repeating easy lies, poisoning

the wells of truth from simple lack of attention to the hygiene of the mind. I do not know. I only know that, from the point of view of the Russian Revolution, England seems to be a vast nightmare of blind folly, separated from the continent, indeed from the world, by the sea, and beyond that by the trenches, and deprived, by some fairy godmother who was not invited to her christening, of the imagination to realise what is happening beyond. Shouting in daily telegrams across the wires from Russia I feel I am shouting at a drunken man asleep in the road in front of a steam roller. And then the newspapers of six weeks ago arrive, and I seem to see that drunk, sleeping fool make a motion as if to brush a fly from his nose, and take no further notice of the monstrous thing bearing steadily towards him. I love the real England, but I hate, more than I hate anything on earth (except cowardice in looking at the truth) the intellectual sloth, the gross mental indolence that prevents the English from making an effort of imagination and realising how shameful will be their position in history when the story of this last year in the biography of democracy comes to be written. How shameful, and how foolish . . . for they will one day be forced to realise how appalling are the mistakes they committed, even from the mere bestial standpoint of self interest and expediency. Shameful, foolish and tragic beyond tears . . . for the toll will be paid in English blood. English lads will die and English lads have died, not one or two, but hundreds of thousands, because their elders listen to men who think little things, and tell them little things, which are so terribly easy to repeat. At least half our worst mistakes have been due to the under-estimation of some person or force outside England, and disturbing to little men who *will* not realise that chaos has come again and that giants are waking in the world. They look across Europe and see huge things, monstrous figures, and, to save themselves, and from respect for other little lazy minds, they leap for the easiest tawdry explanation, and say, "Ah yes, bogies made in Germany with candles inside turnip heads!" And having found their miserable little atheistical explanation they din it into everybody, so that other people shall make the same mistakes, and they have company in folly, and so be excused. And in the end it becomes difficult for even honest-minded, sturdy folk in England to look these bogies squarely in their turnip faces and to see that they are not bogies at all, but the real article, giants, whose movements in the mist are of greater import for the future of the world than anything else that is happening in our day.

I think it possible that the revolution will fail. If so, then

its failure will not mean that it loses its importance. The French Revolution gave a measure of freedom to every nation in Europe, although it failed most notably in France and ended in a dictator and a defeated dictator at that, and for the brave clear-sighted France foreseen by Diderot and Rousseau substituted a France in which thought died and every one was free to grub money with a view to enslaving everybody else. The failure of the French Revolution did not lessen the ardour which the ideas that sprang from it poured into the minds that came to their maturity between 1795 and 1801. And perhaps it was that failure which sharpened the conflict of the first half of the nineteenth century, in which, after all, many candles were lit and fiercely, successfully guarded in the windy night that followed the revolutionary sunset. Let the revolution fail. No matter, if only in America, in England, in France, in Germany, men know what it was that failed, and how it failed, who betrayed it, who murdered it. Man does not live by his deeds so much as by the purposes of his deeds. We have seen the flight of the young eagles. Nothing can destroy that fact, even if, later in the day, the eagles drop to earth, one by one, with broken wings.

It is hard here, with the tragedy so close at hand, so intimate, not to forget the immediate practical purpose of my writing. It is this: to set down, as shortly as possible, the story of the development of the Soviet power in Russia, to show what forces in Russia worked against that power and why; to explain what exactly the Soviet government is, and how the end of the Soviet government will mean the end of the revolution, whatever may be the apparent character of any form of government that succeeds it.

Moscow, May 14th, 1918.

A. R.

Taken from P.P. 524. Vol 2. CAVLING. Henrik.

(36)

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

Submitted by ; -8-9c to M.I. 5g.

P.P. 4891.

18-5-19.

(for information).

From:-

[Folkets Dagblad Politiken,
Syockholm.]

TO:-

Arthur Ransome, P.P. R. 301
Daily News,
London.

Originals to M.I. 9a.

Received from Newspaper
Department. Room 10.
P.C. 64393.

Report on "Folkets Dagblad Politiken" (Stockholm),
issues of April 14-15-16-17-22-23-29-30. and May 1st. 1919.
(Nos. 86-87-88-89-91-92-97-98-99-4th year).

This paper is pro-Bolshevik, and a tone of hostility
towards the Entente, especially England, is marked. "White "
Finland is attacked;

Issue of April 14.

An article "Finnish War Schemes against Soviet Russia",
alleges the "Salvation of Europe" in return for the recognition
of her independence- as a vassal state of England and France.

It is maintained that Mannerheim's plans are pure
bluff and will cost the White Finns very heavily. The Finnish
reactionary press is condemned for misrepresenting the true
state of affairs in Finland.

Issue of April 15.

In the leading article "Who are the true friends of
Peace ?" Frederik Strom attacks the capitalists.

Extract translated from Swedish)

A.....bourgeois rule will create everywhere, instead
of a permanent peace, a state of permanent war and exploitation
....Such will be our fate, if world imperialism prevails over the
world revolution....Bolshevism, the weapon of the working class
alone promises peace to the world..and the Bolsheviks ...are
the only true friends of peace.

Harry Holmberg contributes an article "The front against the
Traitors" in which he advocates direct action on the part of the
Swedish working class in combination with the Russian Bolsheviks.

Issue of April 16.

A telegram from Kirkenas to "Ny Tid" Christiania,
states that according to trustworthy information, the entente
troops in Murmansk celebrated the 18th March by revolutionary
demonstrations, and that on March 20th a company of English
soldiers refused to fight the bolsheviks and were consequently
arrested.

Issue of April 17.

The article "An American report from the Archangel Front-
The Entente's private policy in N. Russia is exposed in its true
light- while purporting to be a discription of conditions in
N. Russia is in reality an attack on the British.

Extract translated from the Swedish.

The American troops are placed under a totally foreign and imperialist command and treated in a manner unworthy of the tradition of any army or nation. They are compelled to work for the King and are subordinate to the British G.H.Q. American ideals of justice and fair play are completely suppressed...from all sides distrust....especially of the Englishmen is on the increase.

Frederik Strom contributes a further instalment of his article "Who are the true democrats" the first part of which appeared in the issue of April 16.

Issue of April 22.

A detailed report is given of a debate on the attitude of Left Socialism towards Bolshevism held by the Stockholm Left Socialist Party in the Victoria Hall. Among the speakers were Z. Hoglund C.N. Carlsson, Lindhagen etc.

Issue of April 23

In an editorial entitled "The dictatorship of Labour or Wealth" C.A. Nystrom develops the theory that the dictatorship of the proletariat is the sole road to universally equitable conditions.

Issue of April 29.

"French Labour is anxious to follow in the steps of Russia and Hungary" is the heading to a refutation of Branting's telegram stating that "The Lenin programme has absolutely nothing to expect from the French Labour party"

"Home to Europe" is the title of a condemnation of the treatment accorded to foreigners in U.S.A.

Extract (translated from the Swedish)

Even Russian Czardom in its worst days could not have treated the working classes so brutally and unscrupulously as has America.

Issue of April 30.

Under the heading "Free Speech" is published an article entitled "Social Democracy and Bolshevism" signed O.V.G. This article is an exposition of the aims and principles of Bolshevism and the reasons for the unbridgeable gulf between Democracy and Bolshevism.

Issue of May 1.

This issue contains articles on the International Labour question by Hakan Rode, Einer Ljangberg and Ture Nerman, the last of whom, in "What do these gentlemen mean?" criticises the ideals of the statesmen presiding at the peace Conference and defends the aim of the revolutionary party, who will save humanity by operating quickly and thus eliminating the disease.

N.B. Previous issues of this paper have been reported (of P/P 4343 condemned and P/P 4406, decision pending) Two copies of each issue are now been regularly in each terminal mail one addressed to Watergate House and the other to Mr. Arthur Ransome.

U.S. for D.S.
M.I.9c 2b
4890
16-5-19

Original to M.I.9a

Copies to
M.I.5, M.I.7. Mr. Benjamin P.I.D. F.O..

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

Press 4911
17.5.19.

Submitted by M.I.9c.4b. to M.I.5g. for information.

from

[Lola Rinel (or Kinel)
Warsaw.
29.4.19.]

to

[Douglas W. Keane,
Chudleigh,
Devon.]

Via

Redirected to -

[Dr. B. Bogen,
c/o American Relief Administration,
Paris.]

British Consulate,
Archangel.

Postmarks, Paris 4.5.19.
Chudleigh 13.5.19.

Original sent on

COMMENT

Via F.O. Bag.

Proposal to evade censorship of a packet from
Warsaw.

Extracts :-

"...There is quite an important matter to which you could attend...I have written a few English stories, which I think are good enough to be published...I could do it only through A.R.

Will you...find out where A.R. is now, and if he is in London, tell him about it, and also ask him how I could send those things, so that they won't be censored?

The British Embassy will probably soon come to Warsaw, and I am sure A.R. will know some...of the people and can arrange it through them...

You can find A.R. through the Editor of the "Daily News", Mr. Gardiner.

The stories are on rather recent topics, and lose interest each day, so the sooner I can send them the better.

I am giving you my private address besides the one of Dr. Bogen, to whom you must send the letters. It is :-

[c/o F. Archer,
Krolewska 18, Warsaw..."]

In another letter dated Warsaw 27.4.19., which is also enclosed in packet, writer states that she is sending a duplicate directed to addressee at the Foreign Office.

N.B. "A.R." is presumably Arthur Ransome, formerly "Daily News" correspondent in Russia, whose pro-Bolshevik sympathies and close relations with the Russian Bolshevik Government have been reported in Press 4360, 3918, 3918, 3812, etc.

Copies for information to M.I.5g.

D. d'A.
M.I.9c.4b.
291(5139)
17.5.19.

orig. in S.7. 400 (u) (Censorship)

(35)

16 August, 1919.

Dear *Sir Edward*

Kell has shown me your letter regarding the question of letting Mr. Arthur Ransome go to Russia as correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

I am of opinion that at this juncture it would be most undesirable for a British Subject holding such views as Ransome does to go to Russia.

I should say he would do less harm in this country.

Yours truly
(Sd) Wm. Thwaite
Wm. Thwaite

Sir Edward Troup, K.C.B.,
Home Office.

h. p. 14

3/9/19

Confidential

(34)

14th August, 1919.

Dear Keil,

Mr. Scott of the "Manchester Guardian" has applied for permission for Mr. Arthur Ransome to go to Russia as correspondent of his paper. Ransome, as you know, is a person with strong Bolshevist leanings, who has written a book called "Six Weeks in Russia in 1919", and who is doing a certain amount of Bolshevist propaganda in this country. Thomson thinks we should let him go. His view is that Ransome is more mischievous in this country than he would be in Russia, even if he gave whole-hearted support to the Lenin Government; and he thinks he may have other reasons for going to Russia than to back up Lenin.

Before deciding, the Home Secretary will be glad to know whether you take serious exception to his going to Russia, - that is, whether you think the mischief he will do to our interests while he is there will be greater than the harm he will do in this

country/

3/9/19

country.

I may say that Mr. Scott has given an undertaking to Thomson not to put anything from Ransome in the "Manchester Guardian" which would be detrimental to our interests, and he thinks he can be trusted in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Thurf.

Colonel

Sir Vernon Kell, K.B.E., C.B.

Relating to RANSOME, Arthur,

Extracted from PF file LITVINOFF, Maxim M No. R 244/58.
 Author of original INT: letter from J.A. Bouvier, 32. Mount Pleasant Ad SE13. Place and date of origin 2/7/19 Vol. 6
 Extract made by IS. on (date) 1/8/19
 Copies sent to _____

Letter to Mrs Litvinoff, Wealdstone House, Harrow,
Postmark:- Lewisham, 2 July, 1919.

Sender, J.A. BOUVIER, 32. Mount Pleasant Rd, SE.13.

Asks Mrs L. to get Arthur RANSOME to speak at the P.R.I.B. Conference at the Memorial Hall on Saturday, July 26th. ~~Continues~~.....

Memo. Bourvior is one of the organising Secretaries of the U.D.C..

7. P., 25,000. I. 18/10,000. 17. V. 18/10,000. 22. VII. 18/10,000. 10. X. 18/10,000. 15. I. 19/10,000. 25. IV. 19.

399

~~2.4.17~~
2.4.17

COPY.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

51a

21 Hyde Park Place,

W.

May 20th, 1919.

Dear Mr Selby,

The facts which you asked me to write with regard to Ransome are as follows.

Arthur Ransome was in Russia before the revolution as correspondent of the Daily News. In the summer of 1917 I met him in Petrograd, where he was publicly abusing the British Government, and in particular Mr Lloyd George for setting up tyranny in England, and making use of agents provocateurs among the masses in order to have an excuse for reprisals.

In the autumn of 1917 I heard that he was in close touch with the Bolshevik leaders, and evidence of his intimacy with them during the winter may be found in the report of a telegraphic convention between [Tchicherin] and [Trotsky] printed in the "German Bolshevik Conspiracy" published by the American Public Information Committee, October 1918 (Appendix 2), not all the documents in it are authentic, but I believe most of them to be so, and I incline to think this one to be genuine.

In November 1918 I met Arseny Voznessensky, the director of the Eastern department of the Central Commissariat for Foreign affairs. He told me that Ransome had married [Trotsky's] private secretary, and had written a pamphlet called "The Truth about Bolshevism" or a title to that effect, which the Conciliar Government had had printed for distribution in England with a preface by [Karl Radek,] and that some time in the course of the summer Ransome had been sent (We sent him" were the words used) to Berlin via Riga, while Phillips Price was sent to Berlin via Orsha. I imagined that this had been in September, but have since been informed that all Ransome's movements are accounted for from August 1918 onwards. If this

is so, his trip to Berlin must have been in July or August, there seems to me no reason to doubt that Voznessensky knew the facts and was telling the truth. Except in so far as it seems that Ransome had another wife living in England.

In February of this year I learnt in Helsingfors that Ransome had arrived from Russia and passed through to Stockholm and England. Subsequently I was informed that this was arranged for by the British authorities, but it cannot have been part of the arrangement that Ransome should bring with him a proposition of peace from [Lenin] to the Estonian Government, and the fact that he did so appeared to be a complete surprise to our representatives in Stockholm. This was reported to me by the Estonian minister in Helsingfors, [Mr Hanko,] and he did not know anything about Ransome other than the fact of his visit and had never heard of him before, he could not have invented the story, even if he had had any conceivable motive for doing so. Mr Hanko said also that he had refused to listen to Ransome, when he learned what the object of his visit was, and practically had him turned out of his office.

Since you are so kind as to allow me to place my views before you, I must say that knowing Ransome's views I should have from the first believed it impossible to trust him in the character of a "contre espionage" agent against the Bolsheviki, in which capacity I understand that he has been to a certain extent employed. He does not belong to the category of paid spies, who can be bought over, but is, from what I know and have heard of him, a genuinely convinced, muddleheaded, enthusiastic fanatic. In the case of such a man the chances are always that he will work according to his convictions and aspirations and cannot be trusted by the opponents of them. This supposition is undoubtedly borne out by the fact of Ransome's using his permission or mission to go to Russia in order to bring from Lenin a proposition which, had it been/

been listened and assented to, would have given the Bolsheviks the whole Russian Baltic seaboard and most gravely have threatened the stability of Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Since returning to England I have been informed by a Russian, resident here and in touch with socialist and labour circles, that Ransome, who returned I believe about the end of March has been hard at work, if not propagating bolshevism in England, at all events representing that it provides an excellent regime in Russia, and that opposition to it on our part constitutes a crime against democratic principles. When the real facts of the bolshevik tyranny are considered, and that it is upon our support to the Russian people in freeing themselves from it that our future influence in Russia must largely depend, as well as the immediate danger of the Germans effecting an organised union with the Bolsheviks, and the much more farreaching danger to India and the East generally from the bolshevik agitation, deliberately, as always directed against ourselves, it can hardly be denied that to have enabled Ransome to return to England and thus given him an opportunity of conducting propaganda here was a highly dangerous step; while to continue the relations that it is understood exist or have existed between him and the Government would I submit, in view of his behaviour at Helsingfors be a still more dubious policy. It must be considered an accident that the fact of his being Lenin's messenger to the Estonian Government became known to me; and if he brought this message, it is probable that he brought other messages to other people which have not come to the knowledge of persons of loyal intentions.

He is a clever writer and a man of great energy. This makes him all the more dangerous as an agent of the Bolsheviks, which on the facts there is every reason to suppose him to be. His connections in the Liberal press put him in a position to be of peculiar use to them, especially in gaining public credit for and putting veneer of respectability on the underground agitation which is doubtless carried on in England as well as in Ireland in

a more sinister form. This is exactly the way in which the German-Bolshevik agents used the press in Petrograd in 1917, and their hope is to obtain similar results now and here.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

(Signed) John Pollock.

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

Submitted by M.I.9c.4B. to M.I.5c. (for information)

P/P.4815.
31.5.19.

From

To

Offices of
Folkets Dagblad Politiken,
Stockholm.

Arthur Ransome,
"Daily News",
London.

COMMENT.

Originals to M.I.9a.

Received from Nexapaper Dept. Room 10.

P.O. 64393.

Report on "FOLKETS DAGBLAD POLITIKEN" (Stockholm) Issues of April 24, 25, 26, 28, May 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 22 (Nos 93, 94, 95, 97, 99, 100, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109, 113, 114, 117, 4th year of issue).

These issues are all revolutionary in tone and display Bolshevist sympathies. Capitalism is attacked, and allied intervention in Russia is condemned. A strong note of hostility towards the Entente with regard to their policy towards Germany is noticeable in the articles of C.N. Carleson.

Issue of April 24.

An editorial entitled "No reaction in White Russia" accuses the committee for the White Russian Government, of supporting a military dictatorship. Lazanov is stated to be a pure reactionary, and Tchaikovski an "old man on the threshold of his second childhood". Admiral Kolchak is also accused of reactionary aims.

In an article entitled "Egypt - Bond or Free?" Lucie Lager Biele attacks English policy in Egypt and claims that the cause of the present disturbances can be summed up in the words "Egypt for the Egyptians".

Issue of April 26.

The chief editorial "The dictatorship of Capital" by Albert Wickman, deals with the evils of a "bourgeois" régime, rantailing militarism and oppression of the working classes. C.N. Carleson attacks the Entente for their policy towards Germany.

Issue of May 2. contains a long editorial entitled "Socialism at any price", which proclaims the uselessness of fighting the irresistible tide of revolution.

Issue of May 3 reproduces the first part of an address by Lenin entitled "Bourgeois Democracy and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat", delivered at the Congress of the Communist International in Moscow. (cf. P/P.4479)

Issue of May 5.

Fritz Ek, in an editorial "Bolshevism and our Programme" urges Socialists to unite to use methods as cunning and unscrupulous as those employed by the upper classes, in the cause of the revolution.

Issue of May 9.

C.N. Carleson devotes a long editorial
entitled "A Peace of force and slavery" to an
attack on the Entente, condemning the peace as
"typically capitalistic and imperialistic."

N.B. Previous issues of this paper have been reported in
P/P 4343 (condemned) P/P 4406 (decision pending)
P/P 4691 (condemned).

Two copies of each issue are seen regularly in
the Terminal mails, one addressed to Watergate House
and the other to Mr. Arthur Ransome.

Should this proceed?

D.P.

U.S. for D.S.
M.I. 9c.1B.
4890.
31.5.19.

Originals to M.I. 9a.
Copies for information to M.I. 5g.
Mr. Benjamin, P.I.D., F.O.
M.I. 7d.
D. C. J.

75107

Copy.

(69913/2/38)

Original p.a. in R. 2147. Shelepina.

Urgent.

The Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Director of Military Intelligence and begs leave to inform him that he has received an application from Mr. Arthur Ransome on behalf of [Miss Eugenia Shelepina] for whom he is desirous of obtaining facilities in order that she may come to the United Kingdom from Russia.

In this connection Sir R. Graham transmits a copy of a letter of recommendation from Mr. Bruce Lockhart, and would be glad to know whether in view of the information received Major General Thwaites would agree that the required facilities should be granted.

A copy of this communication is being sent to His Majesty's Chief Inspector under the Aliens Act for his information.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

May 17th 1919.

Copy.
(69023.)

2.V.19.

75107

Dear Gregory,

This is to introduce to you Mr. Arthur Ransome, of the Daily News, who was out with me in Russia in 1918

He is most anxious to see you with regard to the extraction from Russia of [Miss Shelepina,] a lady about whom the F.O. took steps in August of last year.

I should be extremely grateful if you could do anything to help her as she has been of considerable service to us on many occasions.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) R. H. Bruce Lockhart.

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. JUNE 2004

Copy.

Confidential.

2nd May 1919.

My dear Gregory.

I am adding this private note to my letter of introduction for Ransome in order to state to you more fully my own views regarding the extraction from Russia of [Miss Shelepina.] This lady who, although not a Bolshevik herself has been working under the Bolsheviki since the October revolution, was frequently of great assistance to me during the past year in Russia. (She was a civil servant under the Tsar's Govt. as also under Karensky and now under the Bolsheviki).

During the Autumn of 1918 and the Winter of 1919 she was working with Ransome and was incidentally instrumental in getting out of Russia the numerous Bolchevik papers and literature which Ransome sent on to you. In February of this year she returned to Russia with Ransome.

She is now in a difficult situation and exposed to danger from two sides: (1) from the reactionaries who no doubt would like to hit at Ransome through her and (2) from the Bolcheviks in the not unlikely event of their turning suspicious of Ransome.

The latter is most anxious about her fate and considers himself morally responsible for her safety. He would be extremely grateful if the F.O. could aid him in this matter and grant her a visa for England where he is quite prepared to guarantee her political non-existence. From personal knowledge of the lady I think we can safely do this.

For your confidential information I may add that I think

that

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. JUNE 2004

that we have everything to gain in granting this request.

Ransome, who I think has in many ways been wrongfully abused, has behaved with commendable moderation since his return to England and has steadily refrained from accepting the numerous invitations which have been hurled at his head by the extreme Labour section in this country. I have seen a good deal of him during the past few years and have also had several conversations with him since he returned home. I do not mean to suggest that he would wilfully be driven to an open attack on H.M.G. by an inconsiderate refusal of his request but I do think that he feels very deeply his responsibility towards this girl and that it would be bad policy on our part to drive him to desperation. I feel convinced that if his request were granted such action would have beneficial results.

I'm awfully sorry to worry you about a matter of this kind but I thought you might like to have my views on this subject.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) R. H. Bruce Lockhart.

G4A

May 27.

RECEIVED
29 MAY 1919

Dear Lucia

I enclose a
copy of a letter from
Mr. John Pollock to Selby
about Ransome for your
information Yrs Harry Roddham

EXTRACT.Relating to Arthur RANSOME.

Extracted from P.P. file 80. "THE NEW STATESMAN" No. _____
Author of original M.I.5.G.4a. Place and date of origin 29/4/19
Extract made by K.M.M.S. on (date) 16/5/19
Copies sent to _____

PERSONAL.

Dear Mr Thomson,

Please see copy of information concerning
Arthur RANSOME and Clifford Sharp, which has been received
in this office, and is passed to you for what it is worth.

Yours sincerely

(sd) R.F.

for V.G.W. Kell
Col G.S..

B.H. Thomson C.B.
Director of Civil Intelligence.
New Scotland Yard.

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME Arthur

Extracted from P.P. file "The New Statesman." 80 No. _____

Author of original U.S. Senate Records. Place and date of origin _____

Extract made by K.M.M.S. _____ on (date) 16/5/19 _____

Copies sent to _____

Evidence before the Senatorial Committee Investigating
Bolshevism.

Before the same Committee, on February 11th, Dr.
W.C. Huntington, formerly Commercial Attache to the American
Embassy in Petrograd, until the Autumn of 1918 gave the following
evidence:

Speaking of propagandists sent out of Russia into
other countries, Dr Huntington mentioned the name of an Eng-
lish writer named Arthur RANSOME. "This man" said Dr Hunt-
ington, "left Russia before the German debacle and was permit-
ted by the Germans, at the instance of the Bolsheviks, to
get into Scandinavia. He travelled under the protection of a
Bolshevist courier passport, and subsequently returned to
Moscow". (Expelled by the Swedish government).

P.F.R.301/W.1.5.4.4.a.

(24)

23rd April, 1919.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Mr. Thomson,

The attached copy of a telegram received from Archangel is forwarded for your information.

Please note paragraph marked with reference to Arthur RANSOME.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) R.F.

P.H. Thomson, Esq. C.F.
Director of Civil Intelligence,
New Scotland Yard.

(84)

RF/MVE.

Copy.

Confidential.

28
POLICE OFFICE.

72335
April 16th 1913.

Dear Thomson,

With reference to your letter of the 25th ultimo to Cavendish-Bentinck, about your interview with Ransome, you may be interested to know the result of a similar interview which Leeper has had with him.

Leeper, after four hours conversation with Ransome, considers that he can do more harm in this country than Price. He thinks that Lenin would certainly not have wasted two hours with him unless he thought it would be to his own advantage. He is of opinion that what Lenin wants in England at present is that there should be certain people who will take up his policy and at the same time declare that they are anti-Bolshevik. Ransome would be the sort of person to do this to perfection.

if

Basil Thomson Esq. C.B.

New Scotland Yard.

Kup Wf

if not by writing, at any rate by talking to
people.

Yours sincerely
(sd) J. J. Gregory

Copy.

(81140)

E.A.S.

Confidential.

73048

See Kemp LF

METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICE,
NEW SCOTLAND YARD, S.W.1.
17th April, 1919.

Dear Gregory:-

I think what Leeper says about Arthur Ransome is true. Price is a crank and Ransome is a clever man. On the other hand, as we could not keep him out, perhaps we have done the best thing in getting him to give an undertaking that he will not engage in Bolshevik propaganda here. So far, he seems to have kept his engagement. I had a talk to-day with Commander Averkieff, who knows Ransome and is going to see him and will give him some plain talk.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) B.H. Thomson.

From:- Forsaint, Archangel.

To:- D.M.I., London.

11568

T.H.302. April 18th. Captain J.B. Wilson, R.F. Signals, captured by Bolsheviks on 17th March vicinity Bolshieodarkie returned our lines three days parole. Ambushed dusk by party Bolsheviks wearing white smocks he lying afloat in sleeping bag resistance impossible. Clothes removed left shirt, breeches, socks. Given one pound frozen black bread. Following morning moved south Shelaksa with fifteen to nineteen Allied prisoners. Second night spent round fire near hut which guards occupied, not allow prisoners to use. Following day marched from before sunrise until 8 pm. After hours rest sent Imptsa arriving 4 am, next day. Covered about 52 versts foot by this time. Completely exhausted. Imptsa the prisoners too exhausted interrogation were sent Pleasetkaia. Only one examined. Captain Wilson's interrogators more interested his political views than military knowledge might gain from him. Following day left for Vologda. Again interrogated. Questions as before, mainly political. Interpreter a Commissar named Dobbin who in charge English and American prisoners of War. Fifth day after capture prisoners taken to Moscow which reached 43 hours. Bolsheviks explained delay due to disorganization train service owing large troops movement Viatka also because railways congested attempt get food into Moscow. Moscow prisoners told openly people were starving. Reason for this according Bolsheviks Allied intervention in Moscow. These prisoners were billeted Russian barracks. Given passes walk streets without escort 9 pm. time obliged (? return to) barracks. Allowed to see Mr. North, English clergyman, but he not permitted visit them in barracks. Allied prisoners permitted work under supervision. Paid for work rate 25 roubles day. Work consisted removing furniture large houses, clearing snow from streets, carrying wood to Communal kitchens. Treatment of prisoners taken earlier was very different. Major Fraser captured September, also 3 officers, 3 men, British Military Caucasus Mission, confined cells Duterski prison. Extracts letter written by one of this batch of prisoners being sent separate telegram. In Moscow all shops closed, many windows broken and not repaired. Streets dirty and ill cared for. Whole town most dismal. Price of butter 140 roubles, Bacon 80 roubles, Bread 35 to 40 roubles, Meat 45 roubles, Potatoes 12 roubles per pound. All these can be purchased in the open market at above prices, but food can be bought with workmans ration cards at Soviet kitchens for 5 to 10 roubles per meal. English Vicar of opinion anti-bolshevik rising will take place. Sub-Manager, British firm, stated only 10% his workmen Bolsheviks. Remained merely working to obtain food tickets. Following Englishmen calling themselves "The Group of English speaking Communists in Russia" seem to be in charge of propaganda. Reinstein, Friburg and Bloomfield. Captain Wilson not certain whether "Daily News" correspondent, Mr. Ransome, is still in Moscow, but was given number of Mr. Ransome's pamphlets and endeavours made to propagand British soldiers by taking them out to meetings where food was distributed to them. If no food forthcoming the men were not taken. One day two men civilian clothes came prisoners barracks talked propaganda French soldiers. One them Sadou. 13th April. Captain Wilson told he and fourteen other British prisoners to be taken to northern front to be exchanged. On arrival 16th Pleasetkaia party told exchange had fallen through. Bolsheviks then asked Captain Wilson enquire men whether they wished letter sent across lines stating they were at Pleasetkaia awaiting exchange. Men asked this to be done. The Bolsheviks agreed captain Wilson taking letter only on condition he gave parole to return within three days. Owing anxiety men him to deliver letter their behalf he considered he was doing his duty by them in giving his parole to the Bolsheviks.

M.C.M. copies to:-

C.I.O.S.
D.N.O.

D.D.M.I.
H.I.L.
M.I.P. & A.

Copy p.a. P.P. 80. SHARP, Clifford (11)

18 APR 1919

Telephone: Call "WAR OFFICE"
(No Exchange Number necessary.)

War Office, 28
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

Ref. No. P.P.P.P. 80/M.I.5.G.4.a.

GUA

M.I.5.G.4.a.

With reference to the paragraph of the
attached marked "A", Sharp was demobilised about
a week ago and has therefore no right to be in
uniform any longer. He has now no connection
with the Military Intelligence. *In view of this*
you not send him attached to Scotland
Yard.

J. H. G. S.
Major G.S.

M.I.1. 71921

18.4.19.

SECRET.

ARTHUR RANSOME.

Arthur Ransome arrived in England 3 days ago. He was expelled from Sweden by the Government on account of his Bolshevik activities, and with the Bolshevik Legation to Sweden (Vorovsky and Litvinoff (formerly of London), which was expelled at the same time, returned to Moscow with his mistress in January 1919.

M.I. thought that his opinions were all camouflage. Our evidence goes all the way to prove that it was not so. Ask LOCKHART (who was in Moscow to the last), if R. is a Bolshevik.

R. was nominally the correspondent of the "Daily News" in Sweden and in Russia and sent that paper and also M.I., sufficient matter to secure their privileges and pay, and to be able to come back to this country.

R. was in Moscow until 20th January this year, with his mistress, with whom he has been living since December 1917, a Russian Jewess who, when R. was in Moscow at the earlier date had been put on him to complete the 'catch' of this useful foreign correspondent, by Trotsky, whose Secretary she was!!

R. reached this country and landed unhindered. The following questions seem pertinent :

Was Arthur Ransome searched when he arrived in this country?

What messages and letters did he bring from Bolshevik H.Q. Moscow, to this country and to whom were they delivered?

What messages did he specially bring to Madame Litvinoff at 11, Bigwood Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb ?

The point is, that R. an active Bolshevik from Russian Bolshevik H.Q., direct, is allowed to enter this country, and give aid and comfort to certain people who are the enemies of the State. R. is according to M.I., merely a man in a "doubtful frame of mind"..... they say that they believe he is merely 'sitting on the fence': that is to say that they admit that he is seriously inclined to Bolshevism. Lockhart, the former British consular representative at Moscow, says that R. is an enthusiastic but dangerous fool: he is emphatic that he is a Bolshevik, in creed and in personal activities.

[SHARP.]

Sharp is the Editor of the "New Statesman": a Socialist. He was in Stockholm as the "Times" Correspondent and, unofficially as chief representative of British M.I. in that city. Sharp has never been to Russia, he cannot speak Russian and has no knowledge of that country. He has been very directly under the influence of Ransome and Litvinoff (who was expelled from England (introduced by the former), with whom he is associating and sympathising.

Sharp is, of course, violently anti-intervention. Sharp was notorious for always avoiding sources and circles which were anti-Bolshevist.

Sharp is still in uniform and connected with M.I. in London.

(Extract from the U.S. Senate Records).

Evidence before the Senatorial Committee Investigating Bolshevism.

Washington, February 20th 1919.

The Senate Committee investigating Bolshevism began a second phase of the inquiry today, which has for its principal purpose the disclosure to the people of the United States the identity of the various persons who are operating in this country as official or semi-official agents of the Lenine-Trotsky 'government'. Its first witness was Mrs. John Reed, who was in Russia during the first ten weeks of the Bolshevik regime. She made an effort to defend Bolshevism, but admitted that she was against a Bolshevik Government for the United States.

"I want to say something about Arthur Ransome," said Mrs. Reed, "for his name has been mentioned here. They called him in Petrograd 'the mouthpiece of the Bolsheviks': he was one of the ablest newspaper men in Russia".

Before the same Committee, on February 11th, Dr. W.C. Huntington, formerly Commercial Attaché to the American Embassy in Petrograd, until the Autumn of 1918 gave the following evidence :

Speaking of propagandists sent out of Russia into other countries, Dr. Huntington mentioned the name of an English writer named Arthur Ransome. "This man" said Dr. Huntington, "left Russia before the German debacle and was permitted by the Germans, at the instance of the Bolsheviks, to get into Scandinavia. He travelled under the protection of a Bolshevik courier passport, and subsequently returned to Moscow". (Expelled by the Swedish Government).

Burns Detective Agency London representative sent through to America on March 4th a report showing Japan was financing Bolsheviks. Opened by Censor people.]

P.F.R.301/M.I.5.G.4.a.

PERSONAL.

14th April, 1919.

Dear Mr. Thomson,

Arthur RANSOME.

Please see attached copy of an
intercepted telegram, which has been sent on.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) R.F.

for Col. S.S.

B.H. Thomson, Esq., C.E.,
Director of Criminal Investigation.
New Scotland Yard.

RT/MVE.

PA

B.M. 5343/M.I.R. passed to M.I.R. 14/4/19

Copy.

War Office, 26
Whitehall, SW.1.

M.I.R.

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward for his information copy of a telegram which passed through the hands of the Censor on the 8th April, 1919, from a certain Mr John Pollock to Sir Ernest Pollock, the Solicitor General, and to make the following observations.

1. He is not aware of the identity of the person who despatched the telegram.
2. The statement that Arthur Ransome passed the Finnish frontier as the bearer of a proposal from Lenin to the Estonian Government for a separate peace is difficult to reconcile with the statement that he received a visa in extra short time from the Swedish Authorities at the special request of the British Consul.
3. Major-General Thwaites would be glad to be informed as to what were the particular motives of Arthur Ransome's journey and whether Sir Ronald Graham has any information that he had been employed by the Bolsheviks as an emissary to Berlin.

The Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office, SW.1.

Relating to *Arthur Ransome A. 301.*

Extracted from S. file 300/4/U.K. No.

Author of original H.Q. London District. Place and date of origin 11/4/19.

Extract made by K.M.M.S. on (date) 30/5/19.

Copies sent to

SECRET.

General Staff (Intelligence)
General Headquarters
Great Britain.
Horse Guards S.W.

Headquarters,
London District
Horse Guards Annexes
Carlton House Terrace
S.W. 1.

11th April 1919.

With reference to the attached I have since the 8th inst.,
received the following information, in reference to

(2) MARX (who is already the subject of investigation by
M.I.5.). My informant states that this person was sent out of
Finland as being the source from which the German agents Libiling,
Richter, Korgin, Madam de Timarshev, Valentine Lynn and others drew
money.

He also states that Mr J. Merrit (telephone number Palmers
Green 122) can give detailed information on this subject.

(3) Arthur RANSOME. My informant states that Colonel
Thurnhill, Military Attache at Archangel on Murmansk? knows all
about this person's activities.

5/7/19 JMD
21.6.19.

M 18a

(25)

R.O.B.S. (Censor's
COPY OF TELEGRAM received from Censor at C.T.O. (No. 115. W.O. No. 02501.
Northern 665. H. 8.4.19.
Origin STOCKHOLM. (Via Northern. Date handed in } 7.4.19.
To Sir Ernest Pollock Solicitor General London. Time handed in } 3.50.p.m.
From John Pollock.
Co's. No. --

Text:

Informed Arthur Ransome former correspondent daily news arrived London Ransome openly recognised Bolsheviki agent stop obtained indubitable information last autumn Ransome marries Trotskys private secretary and sent by Bolsheviki Berlin stop Ransome written pamphlet with preface by radek to persuade British public of truth Bolshevism stop ransome arrived Helsinki from Moscow crossing Finnish frontier March fifteenth unstoping quarantine as bearer proposal from Lenin to Estonian representatives make separate peace with Bolsheviki stop

Forwarded to	Copies sent to	Action taken at Cable Office	Action taken at War Office	Initials and Date
		P.		9.4.19. D.C. (P.A.) (H.W.)

(12512) W0571 R13828 120000 2/10 T. & W. & J. M. Ltd. (E.2126) H3068

eighteenth on special request British
consul Ransome received Visa Swedish
legation extraquick time stop Ransomes
character should be known London
undoubtedly capable dangerous agent
stop forgive my troubling you unknown
who else address in peculiar circumstances
leaving Helsingfors soon delayed chill
sending this via Stockholm.

24

SECRET.

PF.R.301/M.I.5.E.1.

9th April, 1910.

VOROVSKY, ETC.

Circular PF. PP. 459/M.I.5.E.1 of 11/1/10 is cancelled concerning RANSOME, ARTHUR MICHEN.

Copies to—

All Ports.
H.O.
S.Y.
P.P.O.
B.O.I.
Rotterdam.
Rome.
New York.
Tokio.
M.I.I.C. for Christiania.
" " Copenhagen.
" " Stockholm.
" " Berne.
" " Athens.
" " Madrid.
Intelligence, Murmansk.
" Archangel.
" Vladivostock.

E. T. W.

9.5
17/4/10

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

Submitted by M.I.9c4B to M.I.5g4b

P/P ~~4313~~ 4350
8.4.19

From

Pte. A.J. Fardon 53406,
Prisoner of War,
Moscow.

5.3.19

To

Mrs E. Garratt,
8, Cambridge Place,
Kilburn,
London.

Comment

Original to M.I.5g

Received from M.I.9c1B (spe

Writer states that he has obtained a post in the Russian Foreign Office under the Soviet Government.

EXTRACTS

"...A gentleman is going to England and kindly presented to take our letters...

A Delegation from Berne...is on its way to Moscow and may decide the question of our release...

In the mean time we are faring pretty fairly... only thing we feel...uncomfortable over is the food-tage. But...all the Russian populace feel that...

I am now working at the Foreign Office, 500 roubles a month, and start at 10 and finish at 4 o'clock. It is so bad, but one cannot work when one's belly needs mending...

...Ramsay McDonald is going to take part in the thing, but in what capacity I do not know...

He intends to come to see us as we have had order clean the place up ready for his coming..."

N.B. The envelope bears the printed inscription, in Russian, "Russian General Consulate, Kieff."

The "Gentleman" alluded to in the first paragraph of extract is probably Arthur Ransome, of the "Daily News," now in England.
E.M.K.

N.R. for
M.I.9c4b
291
8.4.19

Original to M.I.5g

Copies for information to M.I.R.2
P.W.4
M.I.6B

EXTRACT.

P.P. 301

Relating to RANSOME Arthur

Extracted from file Freeman Elizabeth (43) No. P.P.1210.Author of original Betty" Elizabeth Place and date of origin London 4/4/19
Freeman.Extract made by H.M.T. on (date) 20/5/19

Copies sent to

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.Submitted by M.I.9c.4B. to M.I.5.g.
P/P. 4455. 22/4/19.

From.

"Betty",
(Elizabeth Freeman)
39, Bolingbroke Road,
London W14.
4/4/19.To.
Mrs Mary Freeman
138, West 13th Street,
New York City,
U.S.A.Original to M.I.5g. COMMENT.Writer is M.I.5g's I.581 of 24/2/19.

EXTRACTS. "Tell (S.N. and Wlado that Lincoln Steffen has been and re-
turned from Russia and is now in Paris with a (Mr and Mrs Buttles
(N.B.Bullitt?) who went to Russia officially. I saw Arthur RAMSON
(N.B.Ransome?) the other night, he came out of Russia at the same
time. He declares that the stuff in the papers is all lies. I
could not get him to talk much because he wants to write it and
sell it at a good price. The great need in Russia is food. The
Allies armies are holding the main R.R. lines and this makes it
nearly impossible to get food stuffs into the cities....."

* * * * *

N.B. For records of Arthur RANSOME, correspondent of the Daily
News, cf P.C. 81934.

I.H.I.

Original to M.I.5g.

Copies for information to U.S.L.O.
Mr. Hurley.

D.S.

M.I.9c.4B.

5534(3010)

18/4/19.

H.M.T.
14/6/19. J.M.W.
s.b.-g.

Submitted by M.I. 90.4. to M.I. 5G. (for information)

Press 4645.

7.4.18.

From.

To.

Arthur Ransome,
British Legation
Stockholm.

Postmark (Place illegible)
.. dated 31.3.18.

10 APR Recd

CONFIDENTIAL Received from M.I. 90.18.
Special Section.

P.C. 61834.
P.C. 64395.

Original to M.I. 9a.

Addressee was formerly "Daily News" special correspondent in Russia.

His pro-Bolshevik sympathies and close relations with the Russian Bolshevik government have been reported in Press 4360, 3318, 3312, 3352, 3319 etc and P/P 3330, 3609, 3149. He is now in England.

Packet contains:

(A) Leaflet, entitled "The crucifixion of Europe", Published by the "Fight the Famine" Council, 328 High Holborn. Printed by C.F. Hodgson, Newton St, London.

SUMMARY.

An appeal to the people of Britain to demand the raising of the Blockade, and no longer to endorse a policy which makes them the daily executioners of those who were, but can be no longer, their enemies. Quotations are made from the reports of Segrus, Lord Lansdowne, Lady Muriel Paget, and the Swiss Delegates to Vienna, on the condition of Europe.

EXTRACTS FROM

A Paragraph headed, "The Guardians of our honour". "In Paris the statesmen of the Allies with hundreds, even thousands of ... interested traders and financiers ... are living in plenty, and are basing their policy on the Blockade. What they are achieving is the torture and death of women ... and of children, whose misery is being used to force the defeated Governments to accept the dictates of the victorious Governments".

(B) Bulletin consisting of extracts from the British, German and Viennese Press, and from letters by Litvinoff to an American Correspondent, all treating with the question of the Blockade.

SUMMARY (with extracts).

1. "Russia" (extract from letters by Litvinoff).
"The Allied blockade is condemning the Country to starvation and cold. The Scandinavian Countries have broken with us, ... yielding to the pressure of the Allies ... We are unable to import from Denmark vegetable seeds to the amount of 40,000,000 roubles, which we had bought and paid for ... We cannot import agricultural implements ... from Sweden ... We are being strangled and deprived of the possibility of bettering our internal conditions... The economic reconstruction is hampered ... by the militarisation of the country... Instead of using the available rolling stock for... raw materials and foodstuffs, we are obliged to employ it for the transport of troops ... to the fronts. If you add this to the severe blockade by the Allies, ... you will understand that it is not the weakness of the Soviet regime."

Continued.

to our desire to restore healthy economic conditions in Russia, which has prompted our offer of Peace to the A. S.

3) Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung of 14.3.19.

a) "The Decline of economic life".

b) "Lack of Coal".

c) "Embargo on wagon traffic".

The German commercial situation is desperate.

"Vorwaerts" of 26.2.19. Telegrams read by the German delegate at the plenary session of the Armistice Commission on Feb. 24th stated that the majority of underfed workmen in the Lower Rhenish coal districts are incapable of work. Adequate food-supplies must be forthcoming to avert the Bolshevik menace.

"Manchester Guardian" of 19.3.19. The threatened famine in Armenia is due to the delays at the Peace Conference. In the "Reine Presse" of 10.3.19, Burgomaster Dr. Weiskirchner states that during the war, the boilers of the electrical works in Buenos Ayres were heated with maize, and in Norway, herrings, which had been bought by England and stacked up so as to withhold them from the Central Powers, were ploughed into the soil as manure.

The "Deutsche Tageszeitung" of 5.3.19. says: "The Dutch vessel containing salted vegetables, which arrived here yesterday, is said to have left Rotterdam with the permission of the Entente, so that one might speak of a relaxation of the blockade".

The "Daily News" of 26.3.19. contains the following paragraph: "The decision of the Allied Supreme Economic Council to entrust Italy with the provision of transport for the feeding of Austria threatens hopelessly to complicate the food situation here, which is already extremely acute".

N.B.

Sender may be a member of the "Fight the Famine Council" (cf. F/P 4252, 4255, 4152, 4111).

I.R.I.

D.d'A.

M.I.9c.4b.

5447(5317)

8.4.19.

Original to M.I.9a.

Copies for information to M.I.5g.

M.I.7a.

MINISTRY OF MILITARY

OFFICE

(232)

Submitted by M.I. 9c. 4b.

M.I. 5g.

(for information)

P/P. 4283.

1.4.19.

from

to

COMMENT

~~Original to M.I. 5g.~~

Received without WRAPPER from
M.I. 9c. 18. Newspaper Dept.

P.O. 41007
Ref. 63/6197

Report on "St. Louis Labor", March 1st, 1919, No. 943
(Year of issue not stated).

Official organ of the Socialist Party of St. Louis, Mo.

Published weekly at 940 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis.

On List C Terminal

The contents of this issue indicate that the paper strongly favours the Bolshevik régime. A short note on the German Revolution conveys a warning that if the Junkers are waiting with their weapons of reaction, the German Spartacist Party is fully prepared for them.

The Russian question claims considerable space, and an article entitled "How even Senators expose their ignorance about Russia" contains a refutation of the alleged nationalisation of women by the Soviet Government, and attacks certain Senators for their gross ignorance on the Russian question.

P.P.R. 301.

Advertisements of Arthur Ransome's pamphlet "Russia's Appeal to America" at 5 cents, and "The Bolsheviks and the Soviet" by Albert Mays Williams are published under large headlines.

An open letter of condemnation addressed to the late Ambassador to Russia, David A. Francis, and signed by the Editor, is published.

R.D. for references to Albert Mays Williams cf. P/P. 3624.

A few copies of this paper are seen about every second week in the terminal mail; it is not seen in the transit mails.

A.S.

D.S.
M.I. 9c. 4b.
4890
1.4.19.

~~Original to M.I. 9c.~~

Copies for information to M.I. 7a.

Mr. Benjamin, P.I.D., Foreign Office

M.I. 5g.

U.S.I.C.

Mr. Hurley

orig. in S.F. 500/4 Russian Pamphlets.

I.P. Form H22.

I.P. No.

(282)

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME Arthur 301

Extracted from file Krissin B.A. (14) No. P.F.R. 434.

Author of original _____ Place and date of origin _____

Extract made by H.M.T. _____ on (date) 4/4/19

Copies sent to _____

DAILY REPORT.

G.4.a. Called on Mr Basil Thomson and informed him of my interview with W.T.I.D. and Mr. Bennett as regards Russia co-operatives and the Moscow Bank.

* * * * *
Arthur RANSOME. Mr Thomson interviewed him and he came to the conclusion that RANSOME would not mix himself up with Bolshevik Propaganda while in U.K. He has undertaken to show Mr Thomson any matter that he wishes to publish in the Press.

* * * * *

23/3/19.

I.P., 20,000.I.18/10,000.17.V.18/10,000.22.VII.18/10,000.16.X.18/10,000.15.I.19.

2-CH
16/4/19

Tel. No. VICTORIA 2770. Ex. 113.
Reply should be addressed to H.M.
Inspector under the Aliens Act,
Home Office, London, S.W. 1, and
the following reference quoted:—

HOME OFFICE.

2nd April, 1919.

Mr. R. 301 Ransome.

To the Aliens Officer.

Circular W.O.5631 dated
3/2/19 should be regarded as
cancelled as far as it concerns
Arthur Michen RANSOME.

W. HALDANE PORTER.
H.M. Inspector under the Aliens
Act.

Copies sent to Aliens Officers at "Approved Ports," Aberdeen, Plymouth,
four Permit Offices, Bureau de Contrôle, New Scotland Yard, and War
Office (M.L. 5 (a)).

Tel. No. VICTORIA 2774. Ex. 113.
Reply should be addressed to H.M.
Inspector under the Aliens Act,
Home Office, London, S.W. 1, and
the following reference quoted:—

W.O. 5631.

(23)
HOME OFFICE.

28th March. 1919.

Dear Whitehead,

Arthur Michell RANSOME.

Your Circular P.P. 459, dated
11/1/19.

As the above has now arrived,
perhaps you will kindly cancel your Circular
so far as it concerns him. *We are cancelling*
our Circular.

Yours sincerely,

Forquihston

f.h.
gmc
30/3

Captain F.T. Whitehead,
M.I.5.E.,
Waterloo House,
16 Charles Street,
Haymarket.

M.I.5.E.
SECRET.

N.3414

(22)

E1

24/3/19

Colonel V.G.W.Kell, C.B.
G.S.O.

RANSOME, Arthur Mitchell, Br. M. 35
Ref. Circulars 284892/M.I.5.E. of 14/3/19
" PF. R.301/M.I.5.E.1. of 8/11/18
" PF. R.301/M.I.5.E.1. of 18/12/18
" B.P. 459/M.I.5.E.1. of 11/1/19
Passport 175118 Foreign Office 4/12/17
Visa Helsingfors, 18/3/19
M.C.O. Stockholm 28/9/18.

The above who represents the "DAILY NEWS" arrived at Newcastle today by the s.s. "JUPITER".

It appears that he has been obtaining material for a book on the Russian Revolution, in addition to supplying information to the Authorities in this Country. All his papers are being sent by Courier to the Foreign Office.

He stated that he had had interviews with LENIN and TROTSKY, and had run considerable risks of detection at the hands of the Bolsheviks.

A recent Home Office Circular directed that RANSOME should be sent to S.Y., but after consultation with the S.A.O., it was decided to send a Detective Sergeant to London by the same train, upon the arrival of which he would request RANSOME to accompany him to S.Y. to comply with certain formalities which were overlooked at Newcastle! This may enable the matter to be arranged, and at the same time comply with H.O. instructions.

A Mr. MORRIS, well known to the British Authorities in Scandinavia, informed us privately today, that RANSOME had done wonderful work for us in Russia, and that the information he was bringing over would be invaluable.

He gave his address in England as Manor Farm, Tisbury Wiltshire, and he was also instructed to call on Mr. Cavendish Bentinck at the Foreign Office.

Informal H.O.
W.R. Cavendish Bentinck
Capt. G.S.

GA
E. Please ascertain what is happening in this case. + keep to do it. Wk.
25/3/19.

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958.

Ransome

Rec^d 15.00
18/3/19.

h15

913

CIRCULATED TO THE KING AND WAR CABINET.

Decypher. Sir M. Findlay (Christiania)
March 22nd, 1919

D. 10.30 p.m. March 22nd, 1919
R. 3.0 p.m. March 23rd, 1919

Personal and Secret.

Mr. Ransome who has just returned from Moscow called at this Legation to-day and leaves for England to-night. He has visa from Consul at Helsingfors confirmed by Military Control Officer at Stockholm and states that he is still employed by M.I.

He further stated he intended to advocate agreement with Bolsheviks as otherwise they will collapse and Russia will be in state of complete anarchy. He produced autograph pass from Lenin, which I am sending by next bag, addressed openly to him care of M.C.O.

I do not presume to offer opinion on situation in Russia but I cannot help feeling that if we save Bolsheviks by making an agreement with them for financial reasons we shall have cause to regret it.

M.C.X. Copies to :- D.M.O.
M.O.5.
M.O.3.
D.D.M.I.
M.I.1.(2)
M.I.1.a.(2)
M.I.R.
M.I.5.
M.I.G.& B.
Paris.

Major Macdonald

Supdt Mc Brien informs me that ^(P.B.) ARTHUR
RANSOME was seen by Mr. Basil Thomson this
morning at S.Y. or after a lengthy interview he
was allowed to go. To what address Mr. Mc Brien
did not know.

Calling on Mr. L.C. today

[Signature]

G. M. Cookson

25/3/19

C O P Y.

(21a)

P R E S S C A B L E.

No. 8123

COPY FOR FILING.

Place of Origin Helsingfors

DECISION

Passed 'F.A.' (Dis)

Name from Kirdetzow

To Daily Mail, London.

Initials E.S.F.(?)

Date 20th Mar. 1919.

Date 20.3.19.

Time handed in

Time Copied 11.40a.m.

TEXT:-

Lenin sent here new honest broker help Germany get own
back in Baltic provinces stop Regret broker Englishman
Ransome formerly wellknown correspondent daily news who
having married Trotsky's typist became Bismarck to Soviet
Government stop Ransome arriving five days ago direct from
Moscow assured Esthonians that Lenin on certain conditions
prepared conclude peace with Esthonian provisional govern-
ment stop Lenin reported told Ransome personally that
Esthonia not ripe for communism stop Trotsky opposed to
this but position in other fronts particularly Denikins
success compels him agree peace with Esthonians stop Already
telegraphed and today received confirmation that in Esthonia
serious movement growing favourable to agreement with
Bolsheviki under undoubted influence German propaganda which
letterly more assiduously than ever assures Esthonians other
Baltic peoples and especially local Russian organisations
that Allies in no circumstances will ever assist against
Bolsheviki stop Evidently same hand despatched Ransome here
from Moscow and his worthy assistants to Reval from Berlin.

Kirdetzow

M.I. 59 (Mr Farina)

For your information.

EXTRACT.

Relating to

Mr RANSOME

Extracted from S. 'file 400/1/Russia. Vol 2. No.

Author of original M.I.I.a. B.M. 69148. Place and date of origin 9/3/19.

Extract made by K.M.H.S. on (date) 6/5/19.

Copies sent to

Enclosure to Sir M. Findlay's No 37 dated 27/2/19Ditto by ADVOCATE MICHAEL PUNTERVOLDRejojoki (the Finnish-
Russia frontier station)

February 2nd 1919.

**** At 26'clock yesterday we reached Viborg. "The train stops here until further notice. Rumours run about the carriages. "Revolt in Petrograd" so the Viborg newspapers declared. "A false contra-revolutionary named Vorovsky had laid a trap and is on his way to Petrograd"

For the time being the result was pleasant. We three Scandinavians were allowed to go into the town, (the Russians and the "Daily News" Correspondent, Mr RANSOME, who was also described as belonging to "Vorovsky's party" had to stay in the train). *****

D. 9/7/19
F.M.W.
21.6.19

EXTRACT.

(212)

Relating to RANSOMEExtracted from S.F. file 300/4/Russia Pamphlets No. 9aAuthor of original M.I.9.c. Place and date of origin 19/3/19Extract made by H.M.C. on (date) 12/6/19Copies sent to Reg. in P.P. Workers Suffrage Fed. P.P. 7347.DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCESubmitted by M.I.9.C. to M.I.5.g. (for information)
P/P4311 4-4-19From.
Workers' Suffrage Federation
400 Old Ford St.
London. E.3.
Dated 19-3-19To.
Mrs Minturn Scott.
Grand Hotel.
Leysin.
Switzerland.COMMENTOriginals sent on.
Packets contains:-

- (1) Five pamphlets and a newspaper cutting, published by the Workers' Socialist Federation.
- (2)
- (3)

- (1) a.
- (1) b. "The Truth about Russia" by Arthur Ransome; reprinted from "The New Republic", in which paper it appeared under the title "On behalf of Russia; an open letter to America."
cf. P/P 3287.

.....
D.S.
M.I.9.c.4B
4914,5264 (1219)
4-4-19

Copies for information to: M.I.5.g.
M.I.7.a.
Mr Benjamin.P.I.D. ? F.O.
Min of Labour.
D.C.C. for Mr B Thomson.

EXTRACT.

I.P. No.

(20/a)

relating to Ransome

Extracted from file _____ No. _____
 Author of original _____ Place and date of origin _____
 Extract made by _____ on (date) _____
 Copies sent to _____

No. 51.

British Legation,
 Stockholm.
 February, 6th, 1919.

My Lord,
 With reference to my telegram No. 327 of the 30th ultimo, I have
 the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a list of the Russian
 Bolsheviks, who have been expelled from Sweden.

* * * * *

*

I have, etc,
 (Sgd) R.M. Olive.

The Right Honourable
 The Lord Curzon of Kedleston, K.G.,

* With regard to "Ransome med Fru", I
 have the honour to point out that this means
 presumably Ransome, his unofficial wife, a
 Russian lady, who I understand is Trotsky's
 late Secretary —

I.P., 20,000.I.18/10,000.17.V.18/10,000.22.VII.18/10,000.16.X.18/10,000.15.I.19.

I.P. No

EXTRACT.

Relating to *Ransome.*

Extracted from P. file *Vororske.* No. *R. 459*

Author of original *A. S. G.* Place and date of origin *8.3.19.*

Extract made by _____ on (date) _____

Copies sent to _____

UPPGIFT.

a de Ryssar (Bolsjeviker) som avreat härifrån till Åbo med Svenska
ångfartyget Holmdall den 30 nästlidne
Januari.

Vorovsky, V. med Fru och dotter
Beitler med Fru och tre barn (från Norge)

Bogdanoff, A. herr

Srouzenberg, H. herr

Gurewitz, Cholon borka, herr

Jankelson, J. herr

Kilneyer, Emilia, fröken

Klischko, H. sekreterare

Koudriavsky med Fru

Litvinoff, H. herr

Maliavsky, D. herr

Nikhiloff, A. fru

Nitskevitsch, herr

Pervouchin, herr (från Norge)

Pokitonoff, Boris, herr

Ransome, Arthur med Fru

Schmidt, Aron, herr

Schillivskaia, Ursula fröken

Schvyroff, A. herr

Seep, Otto, herr

Sivers, Mario, fru

Solts, Vera, fröken

Symanovsky med Fru och två barn

Trebinsky, herr, och

Zarotskaia, R. fru.

Stockholm den 5 Februari 1919

Eric Hallgren

Tredje Polisintendent.

COUNTER BOLSHEVISM.

21
P/97.

LONDON, 17.3.19.

MEMORANDUM FROM S.8 re ARTHUR RANSOME (S.76)

I do not think that, pending investigation, much credence should be attached to the various reports which have been made regarding any definite activities which S.76 is alleged to have been engaged in on behalf of the Bolsheviks.

I have not had an opportunity of actually questioning him regarding the statement that he carried a large quantity of roubles out of Russia for the Bolshevik Authorities. But, from everything that I know of the nature of his relations with the Bolsheviks, I think it impossible in the extreme that he ever did anything of the kind consciously.

S.76 is not a Bolshevik. His interest in, and association with various Bolshevik leaders has always been literary rather than political. He has, I think, no special political views. But through his association with the Bolsheviks in Moscow, he became intensely interested in their idealism and in certain aspects of their work and also in certain personalities.

His association with the Bolsheviks was begun, and has been continued throughout at the direct request of responsible British Authorities. He was first asked to get into the closest possible touch with them by Mr. Lindley when he was Charge d'Affaires.

I am myself convinced that while he has personal ties with several Bolsheviks he has never in any single instance been disloyal to the British Authorities or British interests. If he returns to London, as he is to do as soon as he gets out of Russia, he may write articles favourable to certain aspects of Bolshevism, in so far as the "Daily News" is willing to accept such articles. But if he is put immediately in touch with the Foreign Office, I am sure that he will place the whole of his knowledge at their disposal, and will be quite easy to manage in regard to his journalistic activities. If, for instance, Mr. Leeper, whom he knows very

well, were to ask him not to write in the "Daily News", and were to give him reasons, I have no doubt that he would refrain.

I would specially emphasise in conclusion that S.76 may be regarded as absolutely honest. If you ask him any questions about his numerous activities in Russia, you will get the exact truth. His reports about conditions in Russia may also be relied upon absolutely with only the proviso that his view tends to be coloured by his personal sympathies with men like Litvinov and Radek. He will report what he sees, but he does not see quite straight.

I would suggest that he should be allowed to enter England without any difficulties or any suggestions that he is regarded as a suspicious person. If it is considered necessary (as I feel sure it will not be) to take any kind of action against him, there will be plenty of opportunities for that at a later stage, after he has reported, and has been given an opportunity of explaining anything which may be alleged against him. If, on the other hand, he were to be badly received, it would naturally prejudice the use that can be made of him.

Copies to :- M.I.5.
D.C.I.
Sec.V.

17.3.19.

COPY.Original in P.F.R. 459 VOROVSKY.

(2px)

HOME OFFICE

3rd .FEBRUARY 1919

W.O. 5631
M.I.5.E.No.P.F.R. 459.

To the Aliens Officer.

The following is a List of 12 Russian Bolsheviks, who are operating in Stockholm. They are probably going to be compelled to leave Sweden by the Swedish Government.

None of them are to have visas for, or to land in, the United Kingdom.

.....

If Arthur Michen RANSOME, British, arrives he should be sent up to Scotland Yard under escort.

Sd. W. HALDANE PORTER

H.M. Inspector under the Aliens Act.

H.M.C.

Hwe
19/6/19

Amw
5.6.19

(20)
736400

FILES ONLY

Decypher. Mr. Clive (Stockholm). 1st February 1919.

D. 8.50 a.m. 1st February 1919.
H. 8.45 a.m. 3rd

No. 248.

Your telegram No. 206.

Ransome left with Voroffski and party for
Russia on January 30th.

Confidential. I understand that his going to
Russia was arranged through the assistance of Military
Attache and that he hopes to return in about 6 weeks.

MYIA
Copies to:
B.M.
M.I.S.
M.I.B.D.
M.I.X.I.C.
M.I.P.

7/15

(3.2 B-4)

Copy.

19
786406

FILES ONLY

Cypher telegram to Mr. Clive (Stockholm)

Foreign Office, 31st January 1919. 11.50.a.m.

No. 206.

Please report whether "Daily News"
correspondent Ransome, is remaining in Stockholm
and whether he is at present helping Bolshevika.

M.L.5
M.L.6
M.L.7
M.L.8

715

~~64~~

H2 ha.

~~Handwritten signature and scribbles~~

(31. 1 8-4).

I.P. Form H22.

I.P. No

18

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME

Extracted from file Vorovsky (19) No.P.F.R. 452.
Author of original I.I.E.I.I. Place and date of origin 25/1/19.
Extract made by H.I.I. on (date) 20/1/19
Copies sent to _____

SECRET.

N.F. R. . 452/I.I.E.I.I.

25th January, 1919.

B.C.I.

Reference your H.A. 60502 of 16/1/19.

Herewith the extra photograph as requested.

CA/HWN.

(Sgd) ----
Lieut.
For Col.V.G.W. Kell, C.B.

TRANSMISSION OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

Submitted by M.I.9c.4B. to M.I.5G. (for information) 17

Press 4360.

21.1.19.

From

Arthur Ransome,
Stock olm.

9.1.19.

To

A.G. Gardiner,
The "Daily News",
Bouverie Street,
Fleet Street,
London, E.C.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Relaying to M.I.5A.

Received in F.O. Bag.

Letter dealing with events in Russia.
Enclosed is a copy of Litvinoff's telegram to President
Wilson of 31.12.18.

SUMMARY of letter.

The various quasi-governments of Esthonia, Livonia, etc.
which speak for these places abroad have no right to do so.
The esthonians and Letts are in favour of the Soviets, except
for the minorities that try to use the Germans and Allies as
a means of grabbing power.

In Finland, Mannerheim's position is not considered
stable. The Finns are anxious and consider a new revolution
not impossible as a reaction against the White Terror, there-
fore, they try to get the Allies to send troops to Finland by
spreading false reports of Russian hostilities.

Denikin's attempt to seize the Ukraine failed; the
country is held by Petlura's army, which inclines towards the
Soviets and would not support Petlura against them.

Siberia is now in the hands of Kolchak, who plays the
game of the monarchists. He has arrested the Constituent Assembly
but is not likely to remain in power unless he gets from us or
from Japan the ammunition which the Soviets will lack, and
thus maintains himself by violence - a situation which would
occasion real anarchy in Russia, as the Russians will not
accept force without ideas now.

Ransome wishes to go to Germany. He disagrees with most
people's estimate of the position there.

The German revolution, directed against the war, will
last until Germany's government does not include people who
like Scheidemann, Ebert, etc. shared responsibility for the
war. A Constituent Assembly will provide only temporary
expedients, and will be unable to represent permanently the
rapidly changing will of the people.

Spartacus is getting stronger, and a Soviet Germany will
soon be an accomplished fact. Progress is on the same lines
as it was in Russia.

We may then fall into the error of forcing Germany into
violent hatred of us by trying to do to her what she did to
Russia. The Russians count upon Allied advance into Germany as
a means of spreading the revolution to England, as it was
spread to Germany by infection in the German advance into
revolutionary Russia.

Ransome may shortly have to "go off on a lively journey",
and hopes to collect first hand information.

SUMMARY of telegram.

Litvinoff wishes to negotiate with the United States and
the Allies a peaceful settlement on Wilson's principles, which
are precisely those of the Russian peasants and workers. He

(2)

protests against the network of monstrous calumnies and accusations against the Soviets; against the terrorist acts by which the enemies of the Soviets created exasperation, and against the Allied advance into Russia which resulted in the Red Terror. The withdrawal of foreign troops, and assistance to Russia in her task of reconstruction is the only solution.

Should this proceed?

DP.

D.d'A.
M.I.9c.4B.
4579(5451)
21.1.19.

Original to M.I.9a.
Copies for information to M.I.7a.
M.I.5g.
M.I.R
M.I.6a. (war office)

16A

EXTRACT.Relating to RANSOMÉ.Extracted from file Voróvsky V (15A) No. P.F.R.459.Author of original B.C.I. Place and date of origin Paris, 16/1/19Extract made by H. .T. on (date) 20/1/19

Copies sent to _____

No. K.A. 60592.Mission Anglaise, B.C.I.
Ministère de la Guerre,
Paris.

M.I.5. Reference your P.F.R. 459/M.I.5.E.1 of 11 Jan. 1919 I
should be grateful if you would let me have 4 copies of each of
the photographs of the 13 individuals mentioned therein.

(Sgd) -----

Lt.Col. G.S.

18.1.19.

H₂ (16)

Ref.R.301/M.I.5.G.4.a.

16th January, 1919.

From:- M.I.5. War Office.

To:- H.I.1.c. (Major Kendall).

Arthur RANSOME.

I have heard from a quite reliable source that the above gave a receipt to ^{OV} ~~June~~goff, the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs (Northern Commune) for a diplomatic passport, and 3,000,000 roubles. This receipt, my informant told me, he had for a short time in his possession and shewed to the late Capt. Cromie.

He further stated that while discussing the best way to recover a debt of Rs.2,000,000 owed by the Bolsheviks to the British Government for ~~services~~ ^{Ransome} etc. and suggesting agreement to pay a bribe of 12%, Ransome, who had overheard the conversation, came into the room saying: "In the name of the Soviet I state that if you will disclose the names of those willing to accept bribes, the Soviet Government will pay your debt in full".

The above is interesting as it is the first time I have received a reliable statement of Ransome actually identifying himself with the Bolsheviks.

(Jgd) R. Jarri.
for Col.,

G.S.

RF/GC.

PRESS CUTTING.FROM *The Westminster Gazette*Dated *Wed. 15th Jan. 1919*

1. Passed to *G4* for any further circulation necessary.
2. Circulate unregistered to
3. Register to Branch and pass to
4. File after indexing

This cutting will be destroyed unless initialled with instructions under 3 or 4 above. No correspondence or action is to be commenced on this paper until registered. If not of interest to any Branch of M.I.5 please inform H.1 for future guidance.

Entry 1 is to be filled in by H.1. Entries 2, 3 and 4 by the Branch to which the cutting is marked by H.1.

G4

THE WESTMINS

BOLSHEVIST POLICY.

LIVELY SCENES AT MR. BRUCE LOCKHART'S LECTURE.

MR. RANSOME'S TELEGRAMS

"Social Conditions in Russia under Bolshevism" was the subject of a lecture at King's College last night by Mr. R. Bruce Lockhart, head of the British Mission to Russia. His position as a Government official, he said, precluded him from referring to two of the most interesting phases of the Russian question—namely, the Allied policy in regard to Russia and the foreign policy of the Bolsheviks. Having traced the rise of Bolshevism, which meant the dictatorship of the proletariat, with international Bolshevism for its ultimate goal, Mr. Lockhart said amongst its adherents were many brave and sincere men, however much they might be misguided. The movement was essentially a non-working man's movement, its leaders for the most part being violent revolutionaries of the upper and intellectual classes, and by far the most active of the members were Jews of the real revolutionary type. Most of the leaders were men of about thirty-five years of age, the oldest being under fifty. They were all intellectuals, and of very artistic temperament. Lenin, the leader of the party, was a most remarkable man, who possessed the complete confidence of all those who worked under him in his professed object of turning the European military war into a European civil war. It was a profound mistake to imagine that the Bolsheviks desired universal peace, and the steps taken by them in that direction were a mere pretence to further their real object.

A Horrible Nightmare.

Dealing with life in Moscow and Petrograd in the days of the insurrection during the time he was in those places, Mr. Lockhart said it seemed to be a horrible nightmare. Everything over which the Bolsheviks had control, even life or death, could be bought for a price. The great and damning fault of Bolshevism was that in constructive policy it had proved an absolute failure,

and had produced a state of misery, famine, and unemployment which was ravaging the country. Bolshevism had brought the output of Russia to a standstill, and by unrestricted paper circulation had brought about economic chaos. Even the Bolsheviks themselves admitted that under their régime living for the working classes had risen thirty-seven times. Thousands were dying daily, and hundreds of thousands were in dire need. The most ardent supporters of Bolshevism admitted that it could not exist unless the doctrine came into universal practice. Russia to-day was in a state of moral collapse; famine was rampant; and it was only in the Red Army that food could be obtained.

It was the Bolsheviks who suppressed the Anarchists, and there was nothing new in Bolshevism. The chief rigour of Bolshevik terror had fallen on other Socialist parties in Russia who were the Bolsheviks' most active enemies. He protested against any statement that other Socialist parties in Russia were rallying round Bolsheviks. Under the Bolshevik régime the cost of living had gone up by thirty-seven times, and she was almost in a state of moral collapse. There was a grave warning in the Bolshevik programme to the "comfortable" and capitalist classes, who fondly imagined we should return to pre-war conditions.

The Ransome Messages.

Mr. Lockhart later referred to Mr. Ransome's telegrams in the "Daily News" about the condition of affairs in Russia, and protested against the mischievous character of statements, which were calculated to create an entirely false impression among Labour and Liberal opinion in this country, and to convey the idea that the other Socialist parties in Russia were rallying round Bolshevism. Mr. Ransome left Russia in July, and the statements made in his telegrams since that date were not the result of his own observations, but were obtained from other sources.

At the conclusion of the lecture a member of the audience, who claimed to be a friend of Mr. Ransome, demanded from the back of the hall the right to put questions, and so did some women. The chairman refused to allow discussion on the ground that time was up, and called on Colonel Yate, M.P., to move a vote of thanks. The mover found a difficulty in getting a hearing, and one interrupter heatedly charged the lecturer with having used secret service money to secure the persons of Lenin and Trotsky by means of Left soldiery. There were cries of "Shut up," and "Put him out," but after several questions had been shouted out and the lecturer had refused response the vote of thanks was passed in dumb show. Mr. Bruce Lockhart quietly left, as did the bulk of the audience, but disputants at the back of the hall were left engaged in noisy altercation.

(14)

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME, A M.

Extracted from file B.M. No. _____
 Author of original M.I.C. Place and date of origin 25. XII-18.
 Extract made by K.A.S. on (date) 6. I-19.
 Copies sent to _____

ConfidentialRussian Bolsheviks
operating in Stockholm.

Dec. 13. 1918.

No. 150.

1. Ransome, Arthur Thicker.
2. British.
3. Stockholm.
4. Slightly bald; hair parted on left side; narrow
shaved eyes; large bushy mustache, wears nose glasses.

Note: - The above have been notified by Swedish
 Government of the latter's desire to have them leave
 Sweden, but to date have not as far as
 known, left.

SECRET.

P.P. 450/ML.5.E.1.

11th January, 1910:

The following is a List of 13 Russian Bolsheviks, with their descriptions and photographs, who are operating in Stockholm. They are probably going to be compelled to leave Sweden by the Swedish Government.

None of them are to have visas for, or to land in, the United Kingdom.

VOROVSKY, Russian, Stockholm. Long black hair, brushed back; straight nose; full beard and moustache; sharp black eyes; about 42-45 years.

SCHEINMAN, AARON, Russian, Stockholm. Absolutely bald head; large outstanding ears; narrow squinting eyes; small brush moustache; about 42-45 years.

KOUDRIOVSKY, VLADIMIR DIMITRIVITCH, Russian, Stockholm. Smooth shaven; young man about 25-30; mild looking; slightly curved nose.

LITVINOFF, MAXIM, Russian, Stockholm. Smooth shaven; dark hair, disheveled, brushed back; wears pince-nez; thick-set.

STROMBERG, MAXIMILIAN, Russian, Stockholm. Tall, slender; dark hair, eyes and moustache. About 35-37 years. So-called Military Attaché of the Bolshevik Mission at Stockholm.

KLISHKO, NICHOLAS, Russian, Stockholm. Young man about 25-30; smooth shaven; hair dark, parted in the middle and brushed back, nose slightly curved.

POKITNOW, BORIS, Russian, Stockholm. Young man of about 30; dark hair parted on the side; small moustache wears thin bracelet on right wrist.

SEPP, OTTO, Russian, Stockholm. Closely cropped hair; small moustache; energetic-looking face with fanatic look in eyes; about 30-35 years.

RANSOME, ARTHUR MICHAEL, British, Stockholm. Slightly bald; hair parted on left side; narrow, shrewd eyes; large bushy moustache; wears pince-nez.

KOUDRIEVSKEYA, LUDOW SOULIEVNA, Russian, Stockholm. About 26-30; looks like a half-breed, mulatto; large dark eyes; large thick lips. Probably wife of Koudriovsky, name above.

P.P. 450/M.I.5.E.1.—continued.

POKITONOW, MARIE LOUISE, Russian, Stockholm. Age about 30; dark, wavy hair; thin lips; mouth rather large; features irregular. Probably wife of Boris Pokitonow, named above (with small son about 2 or 3 years old).

STROMBERG, (ТА ИВАНОВА, Russian Stockholm. Dark hair and eyes; rather thin; face rather ferocious looking; age about 30-32.
Probably wife of Maximilian Stromberg, named above.

SEPP, ZINAIDA, Russian, Stockholm. About 30-35; stubby nose; mouth rather large; features rather coarse; untidy-looking. Probably wife of Otto Sepp.

NOTE.—The above have been notified by the Swedish Government of the latter's desire to have them leave Sweden, but, to date, have not as far as known, left.

Copies to—

All Ports.
H.O.
S.Y.
P.P.O.
B.C.I.
Rotterdam.
M.C.O. Rome.
" New York.
" Tokio.
B.M.M. Rome.
M.I.I.C. for Christiania.
" " Copenhagen.
" " Stockholm.
" " Berne.
" " Athens.
" " Madrid.
Intelligence Murmansk.
" Archangel.
" Vladivostok.

C. A.

113
P.A.

It seems to us very important for many reasons that the Government should as quickly as possible endeavour to obtain and give to the public authentic accounts of the conditions prevailing in Russia. In the *Daily News* this morning Mr. Arthur Ransome records a talk with M. Litvinoff, who has arrived at Stockholm "empowered to enter into negotiations between Great Britain and Russia." On Saturday Mr. Reynolds Bull gave in the *Nation* a picture of the ordered and governed Russia which he has just left. "The truth is that from the western frontier to beyond the Volga there is a federation of Republics and a uniform structure of Government," and he adds that it is clear to the Russians that there is no alternative to the Bolsheviks. On the other hand, the *News of the World* printed on Sunday a harrowing account of the experiences of two English ladies who have returned from Petrograd, a city which they left "in the embrace of death and desolation." The truth must be found something within these extreme points, and it is important that it should be accurately known. For ourselves, we find it difficult to believe that if the Bolshevik Government is merely the homicidal lunacy which it is commonly represented to be it could last in any circumstances whatever.

(12)

SECRET.

PF.R.301/A.I.S.F.1.

18th December 1918.

RANSOME, Arthur.

Reference PF.R.301 of 8/11/18.

The above will shortly be arriving from
Stockholm.

We have received the following regarding
him;

"There is of course no objection to
"an ordinary search when he arrives.
"We cannot guarantee him, but, it is
"suggested that there is no fear of
"his bringing in secret ink, so that
"the more trying methods might be
"omitted."

For information.

Copies to:-
Aberdeen.
Newcastle.

Captain.

FPM/KB

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. *June 30 1964*

301
EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME Mr

Extracted from file Ball Fred Reynolds (5a) No.P.F. P.P.973.
 Author of original Cutting from Horn- Place and date of origin 14/12/19.
 ing Post.
 Extract made by H.M.T. on (date) 11/1/19
 Copies sent to

THE GLASGOW FIGHT
 Whitewashing Bolshevism.
 Slanders on Britain.

The exposure of the Bolshevik aims of the Labour candidates for the Clyde has, in the language of the soldiers "put the wind up them". They are now endeavouring to explain Bolshevism and to show that it is an almost perfect system of society.* *

Bolshevism and our Troops

Mr Gallacher announced last night in the Camden-street Schools, Gorbals, that Mr Philip Price was now writing special Bolshevik articles for free distribution among Russian troops on the Murman coast, and he (Mr Gallacher) hoped these articles would convert the soldiers to Bolshevism and that they would take their stand on the side of the Russian Bolsheviks. It was further stated by Mr Gallacher that Mr RANSOME, who is or was until quite recently the Special Correspondent in Russia of the "Daily News", has also become an official propagandist of the Bolshevik Government, and is contributing articles in this capacity to foreign papers, including the American press.

* * * * *

SECRET.

B/02767.

9th December, 1918.

RECEIVED

9 DEC 1918

M.I.B.E. (Major Spencer).

R A N S O M E . Arthur.

B/02573 dated 29-7-18.

PP. 301 " 27-8-18.

I have sent the attached wire. I rang you
up this morning, you will remember.

We cannot guarantee

him, but, it is suggested that there is no fear of his
bringing in secret ink, so that the more trying methods
might be omitted.

M.I.I.C.

Major.

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3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. JUNE 2004

(10)

SECRET.

PF.R.301/M.I.5.E.1.

8th November 1918.

RANSOME, Arthur.

British journalist. At present
in Stockholm.

His arrival and address in the
U.K. to be reported.

Captain G.S.

Copies to:-
Aberdeen.
Newcastle.

WTW/KB

COPY.

TO STOCKHOLM.

9-12-18.

CXB.

RANSOME can have visa aaa

Signal his coming aaa

EXTRACT.

P. Ransome A. 9A.

Relating to

Extracted from file C.I.D. Reports vol 2 P.P. hist/No.
 Author of original _____ Place and date of origin 4/11/18
 Extract made by _____ on (date) _____
 Copies sent to _____

Extract from "Fortnightly Report on
 Pacifism & Revolutionary Organisations etc.

Sylvia Pankhurst's article in the 'Dreadnought' of Oct. 12th. on 'The Soviet Policy in the East,' has been reprinted in pamphlet form. In the same paper appears an article by Arthur Ransome, on the Soviet Government, inviting readers to "look through the fog of Liebel surrounding the Bolsheviks."

COPY. P/P. 3287.25.10.10.

From:-

The New Republic,
421. West 21st St.,
New York City.

Dmk. 5.9.18.

Original sent on.

To:-

Hjalmar Branting,
Social Democrat Headquarters,
Stockholm, Sweden.

Comment.

Packet contains a pamphlet entitled "On Behalf of Russia - An Open Letter to America", by Arthur Ransome, former Daily News correspondent in Russia, (now in Stockholm), written in Moscow 14.5.18. The letter appeared in the "New Republic" of July 27th 1918.

The author, who holds a brief for the Soviet Government of Russia addresses himself to America in the hope and expectation that the Russian question will be judged there with less prejudice than in England.

He claims that the Soviet Government truly represents the masses in Russia, and that it is eminently suitable for the administration of a country composed of such heterogeneous elements as Russia.

In support of his claim he traces the history of the Soviets. This history, he says, proves that they enjoyed the confidence of the masses from the beginning. The Provisional Government, on the contrary, never represented any but the Bourgeois and Capitalist classes.

"Then the masses found that the Provisional Government did not give them the Peace for which the exhausted army and country craved, and continued to postpone the meeting of the Constituent Assembly, they gave their whole-hearted support to the Soviets with their Bolshevik majority.

Conscious that they had practically the whole army and people behind them, the Soviets overthrew the Provisional Government by the October Revolution.

The first act of the Soviet Government was to announce its readiness to conclude peace with the Central Powers on the basis of "No annexations and no indemnities" and the Allies were asked to support the move. This appeal met with no sympathy, but only created consternation in the Allied camp.

The Entente betrayed the democratic cause in failing to support the Soviets who were plainly representative of the Russian proletariat. Lenin's dream of a universal revolution against Capitalism and Imperialism by the united democracies of the world was shattered. The defection of the Ukraine, as the result of German intrigue, and also the failure of the Allied support, left Russia at the mercy of her enemy. Germany proceeded to impose shameful conditions and to invade the country on the pretext of enforcing them.

At this juncture the Soviet Government would have welcomed the help of the Entente, and would even have given it control over part of Russia's resources, if only to prevent the ultimate domination of any one foreign power within their country.

The Entente however, again elected to play Germany's game and supported the Germanophile minority against the Soviets, ignoring the fact that the latter's revolutionary policy was a constant menace to Imperial Germany, and would have formed an integral part of the Allied blockade of the Central Powers.

The appeal for help to overthrow the Soviets was in itself a proof that the party making that appeal were not representative of the masses - otherwise there would have been no need of outside help to overthrow the so-called usurper.

N.B. The author mentions that he sent the MS. of the pamphlet to America by hand. It was not seen in transit by this Branch.

The Editor of the Daily News wrote to A. Ransome, on 19.8.18. after reading the "open letter" in the "New Republic" and considered that it will have an appreciable effect on President Wilson, who now plays such a prominent part in Allied policy. (cf. Press 3860.)

PRESS CUTTING.

8A.

FROM *The Daily News*Dated *June 29th Oct. 1918*

1. Passed to *G4* for any further circulation necessary.
2. Circulate unregistered to
3. Register to Branch and pass to
4. File after indexing

This cutting will be destroyed unless initialled with instructions under 3 or 4 above. No correspondence or action interest to any Branch per until registered. If not of future guidance.

Entry 1 is to be filled in by marked by H.A. Branch to which the cutting is

BOLSHEVIKS AND THE ALLIES.

Views on a League of Nations.

ENGLISH PRISONERS.

From Our Special Correspondent,
ARTHUR RANSOME.

Stockholm, Monday.

Exposure of the weakness of German Imperialism, and the belief that the war may end without a general convulsion, are having an effect in Russia. Thus many of the same moderates who wish to curtail the sinister liberty of the Extraordinary Commission are looking ahead, and would welcome any chance of finding a modus vivendi with the Allies. They reason that if the war ends, so does the need for an Eastern front, and that the Allies, finding that the population as a whole is unwilling to take arms against the Soviet, will not be anxious to undertake the occupation of a hostile country. They further recognise "that the world revolution may be late, or even not come at all, in which case some give and take will be necessary if a Socialistic State is to exist peacefully with non-Socialist neighbours."

THE SWASHBUCKLERS.

For this reason they are anxious not to lose any chance of re-establishing relations. To the very last minute they tried to persuade the American Red Cross not to leave Russia, regardless of the state of war existing between the Soviet and American troops on the Archangel front. Opposed to these more moderate counsellors are out and out swashbucklers of the Revolution, who believe that in the fight to a finish the Soviet will find allies in the upheavals of the Central Empires, and that increasingly serious war in Russia will have a similar effect among the Allies. These men laugh at all ideas of compromise.

Thus Bukharin, the theoretician of the pugnacious Left wing of the Communist Party, even compares the League of Nations with the Holy Alliance. "English Ministers, the German Government, the Washington Cabinet—all these fighters for the League of Nations stand actually not for a league of peoples, but for a league of capitalistic States, a league of Imperialistic Governments."

NO COMPROMISE.

Realising, perhaps, that a League of Nations does indeed assume some degree of uniformity in the Governments concerned, in so far as they must be responsible to their peoples, Bukharin goes further, and assumes that, just as the League of Nations could have no place for the Kaiser, so it also could have no place for a Socialistic Government. Wherefore he argues that the League is inspired by the fear of revolution. For him and his followers no compromise is thinkable. Just as he was opposed to the signing of the Brest Peace, so now he would oppose the idea of compromise with the Allies.

Lutvinoff has left Stockholm by boat for Petrograd, taking with him full particulars of Mr. Maraden, the "Morning Post" correspondent, who is in prison at Petrograd, and Mr. Bennet, who is in prison at Moscow, promising to do his utmost to secure their immediate release.

SECRET.

64
B/02573.
9

29th October, 1918.

M.I.5.

RECEIVED

20 OCT 1918

RANSOME, Arthur

Ref. B/02277, dated 25-9-18.

I sent you then CX.050187 (P.F.84, Stockholm dated 12-9-18.)

Our political section has from the same agent a later report written to correct the P.F.84. In this it is stated that RANSOME seems to have been badly handled, that he is quite loyal and willing to help by giving information, and that the appearance of working against us is due to his friendship with the Bolchevik leaders, not by any means to any sympathy with the regime, which the Terror has made him detest.

We expect to get a lot of most valuable stuff from him, and it is hoped that you will see your way, so to speak, to leave him alone for a bit and give him a chance. Mr. LOCKHART has an extremely good opinion, and has strongly recommended Stockholm to get into touch with and make use of him.

M.I.1.c.

Major.

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7a

EXTRACT.

Relating to RANSOME, Arthur

Extracted from file B.F. 401/3/2. No. _____
 Author of original H.E.F.A. Place and date of origin 15/10/13.
 Extract made by A.G.F. on (date) 20/12/13.
 Copies sent to _____

B.F. 401/34. re Exchange of British and Russian officials.
 Passed to M.I.7. 19/10/13.

Legation Royale des Pays Bas.
 Petrograd.

Sept-18th 1913.

* * * * *

I think it is my duty to report to you that Captain Hicks of the British Mission, who is at present staying in the ex-American Consulate at Moscow, has brought to my notice the fact that there are two Englishmen whose conduct ought to be brought to the notice of the British Govt; as they are exerting a not inconsiderable influence on the situation in Russia by persuading the Bolshevika that they may count on a large measure of support from the working classes in England. The first is Mr Arthur Ransome, who is the correspondent of the London "Daily News". He has been in close and friendly relations with the Soviet leaders throughout, but in the month of June last, promised Mr Lockhart that if he would recommend the British Government to grant him a passport and obtain for him permission to live in Stockholm, he would occupy himself with collecting information concerning the Revolution only, and would entirely cease his propaganda work. The passport was obtained entirely on Mr Lockhart's recommendation. The first doubts were raised when Mr Ransome left Moscow without saying a word to the members of the Mission, and when he already knew that their position was extremely dangerous. He had already told the Mission that there was a party in the Soviet headed by Radok; that wished to go to extreme lengths with the Mission on account of the British landing at Archangel. This was followed almost immediately by the first arrest of members of the Mission, and Ransome left while the fate of those arrested was still undecided. His influence with the Soviets was considerable, and it appears to Mr Lockhart and Captain Hicks that, if he was too indifferent

I.P., 20,000 L/10,000.17.V.18/10,000.22.VII.18/10,000.16.X.18.

to exercise it on behalf of British subjects, he does not deserve the protection of British nationality. The Mission is further informed that he is, in spite of his definite promises, continuing his propaganda work from Stockholm.

7

M.I.I.C.

With reference to your B/02277. of 25/9/18., -
We have no information about Bassett Digby beyond the
fact that in April of this year he was correspondent
of the "Chicago Daily News" in Stockholm. He is also
a member of the Royal Geographical Society.

P.F.R.301.

IB/UKC.

M.I.5.4.4.
28/9/18.

(Sgd.) N.V. Pring. (Capt.)

RMS
2/10

SECRET.

B/02277.

25th September, 1918.

RECEIVED
26 SEP 1918

M.I.5.G.4.

RANSOME, Arthur

Herewith:

(a) A note of information given by
Lieut. Urmston, who has lately got back from Russia.

(b) Copy of a telegram to Stockholm,
CXB. 657 dated 21-9-18.

(c) Copy of a report dated Stockholm
12-9-18, CX.050187.

Do you know anything of BASSETT DIGBY?

M.I.1.c.

Major.

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ACT 1958.

C O P Y .

1. (A)

RANSOME, Daily News Correspondent, now in Stockholm, Bolshevik, and intimate with Trotsky's Secretary; went with Rallek to Vologda to persuade Allied Ambassadors to come to Moscow. U.S.A. Ambassador refused had access to all Bolshevik wireless stations for his messages.

2 (B)

CXB. 657.

TO STOCKHOLM

21-9-18.

Following for SCALE:

From URMSTON's report it is very desirable that close watch should be kept on RANSOME. Signal him on if he goes to any other country.

C O P Y .

6
GX.050167.

P/F. 84.

STOCKHOLM, 12-9-18.

POLITICAL.

I do not know how much is known in London of ARTHUR RANSOME's activities here, or whether his despatches are being allowed to go through and be published in the "Daily News", but it certainly ought to be understood how completely he is in the hands of the Bolsheviks. He seems to have persuaded the Legation that he has changed his views to some extent but this is certainly not the case. He claims, as has already been reported to you, to be the official historian of the Bolshevik movement. I suppose this is true, at all events it is true that he is living here with a lady who was previously TROTSKY's private secretary, that he spends the greater part of his time in the Bolshevik Legation, where he is provided with a room and a typewriter, and that he is very nervous as to the effect which his present attitude and activities may have upon his prospects in England. I also know that he has informed two Russians that I, personally, am an agent of the British Government, and said that he had this information from authoritative sources, both British and Bolshevik. He seems therefore to be working pretty definitely against us. He submits most of his despatches to BASSETT DIGBY, who is a friend of his, for the purpose of consulting him as to whether this or that passage reveals too much of his real attitude and will damage him in England.

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

Submitted by D.I.Sc.4b. to M.I.5g.

P/P.3149.
18.9.18

From

L.H.C. (live?),
British Legation,
Stockholm.

Alfred R. Fagg.
Southsea House,
37 Threadneedle Street,
LONDON, E.C.

Dated 27.8.18

Received via P.O. Bag.

Original sent on.

(cf. B/P.1972.)

COMMENT.

EXTRACT.

"Stockholm is . . . full of many strange people, Mr. Kense the Daily News correspondent has recently come from Moscow - an ardent Bolshevik and is keeping as his mistress Trotsky's secretary. He is so exceedingly clever and interesting fellow but an out and out Bolshevik.

Then there is Baron Rosen, late Russian Ambassador in Washington who is a crazy pacifist - returned yesterday from Berlin where he was received of course with open arms. He says - I only have this second hand - that Kuhlman (sic) is now the head of a large and growing peace party and that the Emperor can't make up his mind whether to back them or stick to the other crowd who are still for war & outrage."

Ref.

For further references to Kense's relations with the Bolsheviks see Press 3559, 3338 and 3055.

V.M.I.

D.S. for P.M.P.
M.I.Sc.4b.
5508 (8452)
18.9.18

Copy in R 590 Rosen

Copies for information to R.of I.
M.I.7b.
M.I.5.f.4.
M.I.5g.

H. J. Recodes.

*Please register & pass to Miss Ran, Room 95. to p.c.
J.C. 19.9.18. J.C.*

⑤
SECRET.

B/02108.

RECEIVED
17 SEP 1918

2nd September, 1918.

M.I.5.G.4. (Captain Bray)

Your P.F.301 dated 29.8.18.

Our people in Stockholm are in close touch with
Ransome. I sent over some days ago a report by
Major Scale on an interview with him and his opinion.
You may not have seen this.

In the circumstances, as he is clearly well known
in Stockholm, I won't telegraph unless I hear from
you again.

Major.

M.I.1.c.

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A⁶
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Government
Telegram



TELEGRAPHS.

Counter No

37

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on the service of the

Signature

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Words

Sent

Office Stamps

To m
To
By

The Name and Address of the Sender, if to be telegraphed, must be written at the end of the Telegram

TO

M11c for Stockholm

PZ 27-5-18- Author

RANSOME Political Correspondent

of "Daily News" reported to be in
Stockholm and please inform us

if he applies for visa for U.K. etc

Do not grant without reference here

G.W. Courtney
for Secy. of State

M.I.1.c.,

Mr. Arthur RANSOME, Petrograd correspondent of the "Daily News", is reported to be in Stockholm, having married Trotsky's secretary, with a large amount of Russian Government money, and to be travelling with a Bolshevik Diplomatic passport. The alleged marriage, we understand, to be a 'put-up' job and so the Bolshevik passport may be of little account, but the fact that he has a large amount of Russian Government money is of interest to us, and we would like to have him watched accordingly. Could you please wire out?

(sgd.) M. W. Bray. (Capt.)

M.I.5.5.4.
25/6/19.

P.F.R.301.

L.38939

Please inform Foreign Office and Stockholm
Mr. Arthur Ransome Petrograd correspondent of "Daily News"
left here Swedish steamer for Stockholm a short time ago.
He has married Trotsky's Secretary and is reported to
be travelling with Bolshevik Diplomatic passport, he
did not report at the Petrograd British Consulate. He
also had a large amount of Russian Government money.
He is a keen supporter of Trotsky's and is himself an
ardent Bolshevik. It would be well to follow his
movements.

Arthur Ransome has been the correspondent
for the "Daily News" in Russia & has
all along espoused the Bolshevik cause
& this already done known by his
propaganda in the Daily News.
If he comes to England at this juncture he
may continue his Bolshevik propaganda in this
country & I hope he will not be allowed
over before his case has been properly investigated by the authorities.
Manning 26/8

Date of Receipt

(E) 22 8 18

(9)

Office of Origin FO.

Secretaries' instructions

Number

Tel 2854 for Kania.

Date

NAME

2.10.18

RANSOME

Arthur

Place

Subject

TRACES

Permit card receipt

P.T.O.

To be filed in PF R301 Ransome. CAS 23/8.

out to R. 22/8.

For use of II.2 only.

KAS.
26-8-18.

I.P., 50,000.8.VIII.18.

T.27866.

HOWAY.

MILITARY
TRADE AND TREATY.

Decypher. Sir L. Lindlay (Christiania) August 16th, 1918.

D. 10.10 p.m. August 16th, 1918.

R. 8 a.m. August 17th, 1918.

No.2854.

Following received from Petrograd by hand today. Please take necessary action. I beg I may receive instructions by telegraph if I am desired to approach Norwegian Government respecting steamers.

Berins.

British Ambassador, Christiania. Please inform Admiralty and Commander Leighton.

Berins.

Re my 213 letters are progressing. After arrangements have been made by our agent and Russians and Norwegians for removal of steamers British Government should agree with Norwegian bankers that they induce Norwegian Government (to) give guarantees through Norwegian Minister, Petrograd, for agreed values of steamers removed as indicated by Admiralty agent Petrograd with regard to redelivery after repairs executed and after expenses are covered. 2 steam hoppers 1200 tons 450 horsepower 1 Rhine barge 1200 tons all to carry stone now under Dutch flags (group undecypherable) one to proceed to Helsingfors, one at Petrograd offered for (? sale).

Ends.

Please inform Foreign Office and Stockholm Mr. Arthur Ransome Petrograd correspondent of "Daily News" left here Swedish steamer for Stockholm a short time ago. He has married Trotsky's Secretary and is reported to be travelling with Bolshevik Diplomatic passport, he did not report at the Petrograd British Consulate. He also had a large amount of Russian Government money. He is a keen supporter of Trotsky's and is himself an ardent Bolshevik. It would be well to follow his movements.

Ends.

Please inform Admiralty and Foreign Office.

Berins.

L. 123/642A (Held Di. 17th.)

At Moscow all Consuls except Consul General were arrested 4th of August but were afterwards released except Jarran and Grannan. Consulate under house arrest. Lockhart, [unclear] Alfred Hill, Ligner also arrested. First two [unclear] released, no news as to others, numerous arrests among Allied civilians who still remain under arrest.

French Consul and officers of Military Mission, not soldiers, also arrested, some since released. At Petrograd (? now) arrest of

Allied

Allied civilians commenced and enquiries made at apartments of officers, who are all at present using other quarters at night. Bolsheviks have received letters from Russian Mission in Berlin that now was the time to demand concessions and re-arrangement of treaty from Germany, on no account to declare war against Allies as Germany very much feared cooperation between Russia and Allies. Also that Voffe did not know how to take advantage of German defeat on the farne. More about 8000 Russian officers arrested. Reported about 600 to 800 shot and thrown overboard while on the way to Kronstadt. Suggest statement be made that Bolsheviks will be held responsible for any further assassinations.

Ends.

Naval Attaché, Petrograd.

Ends.

Reported to Stockholm.

M.I.1.a. Copies to :-

D.M.I.
M.I.2.
M.I.2.B.
M.I.2.d.
M.I.3.
M.I.3.C.
M.I.3.d.
M.I.6.
M.I.6.L.
M.I.5.a.
M.I.7.

(17.8 8/4).